

COLES COUNTY CEMETERY

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COLES COUNTY

71.2004.08.05.001



# Illinois

## Coles County

### Cemetery

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Father of Martyred President  
Buried at Farmington,  
Illinois.

Plain Shaft of Italian Marble Marks  
the Spot.

(Written by James C. Latimer.)  
Oct 3 1902

In the old Gordon cemetery, located southwest of Farmington, a village near the southern boundary line of Coles county, Ill., stands a plain shaft of Italian marble, about ten feet high. It marks the grave of Thomas Lincoln, the father of the first martyred president of the United States.

Thomas Lincoln died on the 15th day of January, 1851. Ten years later his son, the president, visited the then unmarked grave and left orders for the erection of a suitable monument over the grave. But the cares of office and the subsequent busy scenes of war which followed the great emancipator's inauguration, drove the subject from the son's mind, apparently, for there was nothing done until twenty years later, when the patriot and poet, George B. Balch, who himself, with his kindred of several generations and his neighbors, the Gordons, Rodgers and Phillips sleep in the same cemetery, conceived the idea and plan of giving a benefit entertainment for the purpose of raising a suitable monument. In the fall of 1879 the entertainment was given in Mattoon, but only \$39 were the net proceeds. Finally Robert Lincoln, a distinguished grandson, came to the rescue and gave an order to Thomas Donnell, a local monument maker, for the stone slab.

Thomas Lincoln, by reason of his environments, was a mere peasant and led the life of a frontiersman; but by nature he was a nobleman. The source of his greatness was his affection. He loved deeply—loved his God, his family and his neighbor as himself. Though rough in exterior and uncouth in manner, a great warm heart beat in his bosom.

He read his Bible daily and his "grace" said at every meal was of the briefest and simplest sort. It was always these words: "Fit and prepare us for life's humblest service, for Christ's sake. Amen."

Both Grandfather and Grandmother Lincoln were church members. Originally they were Baptists of the "Hardshell" faith and Stanley Walker, a Kentuckian was their pastor. Once upon a visit to Charleston, Thomas Lincoln visited a Campbellite church, where a revival was in progress and became imbued with the spirit and faith, and ever afterwards was a Campbellite. Though living ten miles from Charleston, he often walked the distance so as to attend the services which were held here. It is said, locally, that once upon a time a niece of Mr. Lincoln saw a lamb frolicking about a farm house yard and yelled "Holy Ghost," and because of his

religious scruples, Lincoln warned her that if she ever used such language again he would "tan her good."

No picture or photograph was ever taken of Mr. Lincoln, so we know him only by memory. In general appearance he resembled his illustrious son, though not so tall. He felled the trees and hewed the logs from which the old cabin in which he spent the last fifteen years of life was built. The shingles of the first roof which covered it were shaped with a drawing knife in the hands of this sturdy pioneer. He was nearly a year in building the cabin. He kept two yoke of oxen with which he did all

ing and plowing. The logs from which his house was built were hauled from the white oak timber, a mile and a half east.

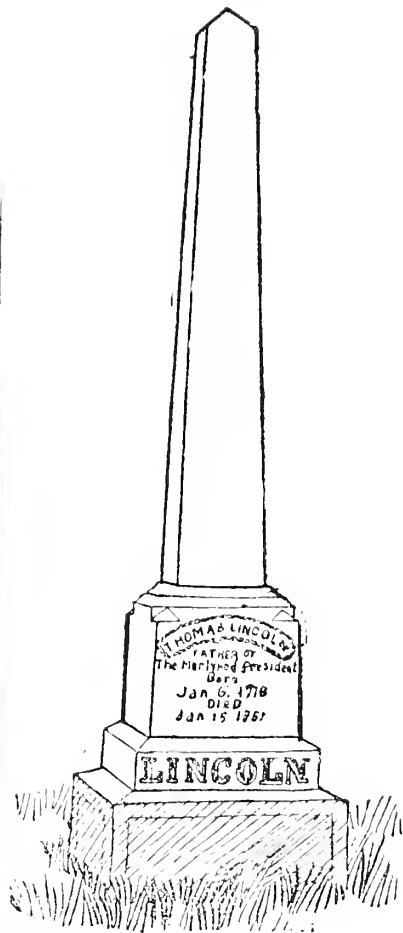
Thomas Lincoln never used tobacco, but the weed was one of his sources of revenue, for on the gate post near his residence the following sign was hung; "Tobacco for sale or exchange. Ten cents a pound." He enjoyed quite a trade, and by furnishing his neighbors with tobacco he got in return supplies of provisions and the necessities of life.

He never held office, but his advice was often sought by others and he was frequently called upon to settle neighborhood quarrels. He was type of the "early settler," having tried his fortune in a dozen different localities. His birthplace was in Kentucky, in the county now known as Hardin, then Larue. There he married Nancy Hanks, in the year 1806. Two children were born to them—Sarah in 1807, and Abraham in 1809. In 1817 he moved with his family to Spencer county, Ind. Then his wife died and he married again. His second wife was a widow, Mrs. Johnston.

About 1830 he came "overland" Illinois, all their household goods being contained in one wagon drawn by a yoke of oxen and driven by a future president of the United States, while Thomas walked almost the entire distance.

Many interesting stories are told of Thomas Lincoln and his beloved helpmate, and I append one which may prove worthy of perusal:

One summer when an old-fashioned loom had been taken down and set aside for a season, leaving empty the holes in the logs of the cabin which held the beams, Grandmother Lincoln placed a twenty-dollar bill in one of the holes for safe keeping and then forgot where she put it. The little cabin was turned inside out in search for the money, but the precious bill could not be found. Later in the season when Grandma went to replace her loom to put in warp, she saw a piece of paper in one of the holes. It was the \$20 bill, and its discovery was hailed with delight. The loss of such a sum of money as this, small as it seems to us, would have been seriously felt by the Lincolns.



The Thomas Lincoln Monument.



# AGED WOMAN IN PLEA FOR LINCOLN GRAVES

Last Resting Place of Father  
and Stepmother in Coles  
County Neglected.

Chicago Daily News

1-31-23

Special to The Chicago Daily News.

Bloomington, Ill., Jan. 31.—"I am past three score and ten, and for fifty years have watched over the graves of Thomas Lincoln, the father of Abraham Lincoln, and his wife, Sarah Bush Lincoln," writes Mrs. Susan P. Baker, of Coles county, in a letter to Judge John H. McCoy. She makes a pathetic appeal for funds to protect the neglected graves.

"We have a new church here," she continues, "and are doing our best to take care of the cemetery where the Lincoln graves are located. Please ask any of your friends that can have any influence with the present legislature to do as well as Indiana did by Lincoln's own mother's grave."

"My father owned the land in Pleasant Grove township which was selected for the site of the burying ground. The last time Abraham Lincoln was here in 1860, he asked my father to watch over the graves. My father has gone, but I am still watching over them. I can see the two graves plainly from the windows of my house."

"They have placed a memorial window in the church here to Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Lincoln and the picture of their cabin is placed above it. There has been talk of removing the graves, but the authorities have opposed it and went so far as to procure a court injunction restraining the proposed action."

## Shrine in Indiana.

The final resting place of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's own mother and the first wife of Thomas Lincoln, who died in Indiana, has been made a shrine by that state. Those of the father of Lincoln and Lincoln's stepmother have been neglected.

The stepmother, who died at the home of John J. Hall in Coles county, was the only mother he ever really knew; she had most to do with developing the boy's character.

Thomas Lincoln died in 1851 and his second wife in 1869. Her grave is unmarked. There is a pile of foundation stones, which designate the location of the log cabin built by Thomas Lincoln, aided by Abe. Both Thomas Lincoln and his second wife died in this humble structure. It was long the home of Hall. The little cairn of stone and bricks is shadowed by two trees, which were set out by Thomas Lincoln for shade over the cabin.

The Gordon cemetery, in which Thomas and Sarah Lincoln are buried, is a mile west of the Lincoln homestead. It

is a typical rural graveyard and in a very isolated locality. There is a pile of brush upon the grave of the woman who had much to do with giving the country its emancipator.

Not until 1880 was the grave of Thomas Lincoln marked, except for a piece of white board, placed there by Abraham Lincoln. In 1880, the present plain, white marble shaft was erected. It bears this inscription:

"Thomas Lincoln, Father of the Martyred President; Born, Jan. 6, 1773; died Jan. 15, 1851."

## Lincoln's Parents' Graves Neglected



The picture shows the monument over the grave of Thomas Lincoln in Shiloh cemetery, Coles county, Illinois, about to topple over. The unmarked grave of Sally Bush Lincoln, Lincoln's stepmother, is beside that of Thomas Lincoln. The Union League club is pushing a campaign for action in behalf of the last resting place of Lincoln's parents.

The Lincoln monument was erected by Coles county folk in 1880.

the grave in 1861.

Underwood & Underwood Photo.]

It seems remarkable that upon this shaft was placed no mention of the wife whose grave lies adjoining.

## Poet Arouses Friends.

Credit for the Thomas Lincoln monument goes in part to George Balen, a rural poet, who resided near the cemetery. He wrote a poem regarding the neglected graves and read it to a number of his friends. He recited it at a public entertainment and \$35 was raised. The shaft cost \$140.

It was impossible to raise the balance locally and finally Robert T. Lincoln, son of the great emancipator, was appealed to. He sent a check for \$130, and the stone was purchased and set up.

The last time that Abraham Lincoln was in Coles country to visit the grave of his father and call upon his stepmother was in 1861, just before he was inaugurated president. John J. Hall says:

"He came down from Charleston early in the morning and came to the old house. I recall it so well because he had to take off his tall hat and stoop when he entered the room where his stepmother was waiting for him. He took

her in his arms and she cried over him. She declared that it would be the last time she would ever see him. Lincoln tried in vain to pacify her. 'Why, mother?' he asked, and she answered: 'Abe you are such a good man that they will kill you.' Lincoln only laughed at her.

## Markers Whittled Out.

"Before noon, he asked me to hitch up my team as he wished to visit the grave of his father. Just before he started he asked me if I had any good, solid joists. I found a white oak board and with the saw and ax he made two markers one for the head and the other for the foot of his father's grave. He then whittled the initials, 'T. L.' on the head-board. We drove over to the graveyard and cleared off the mound and surroundings and set the two markers.

"The two markers were in position until after Lincoln was assassinated. Then they were stolen by relic hunters and the grave was unmarked until the present white stone was set in 1880.

"Lincoln bade farewell to his mother at Farmington, where a public reception was arranged in his honor. It was a pathetic parting. The stepmother loved Abraham more than she loved her own children, and he adored her. He said of her, 'she was an angel, the first person that made me feel like a human being.' Of him, she said: 'My boy Abe; he was the best boy I ever saw.'"

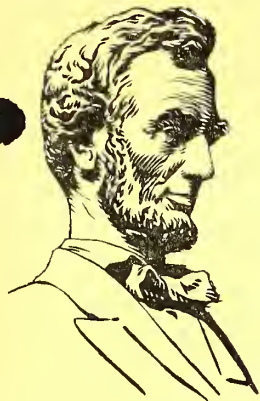
Coles County Both Lincoln Tombstones







# Lincoln Memorial—Hall of Fame



## THE UNION LEAGUE CLUB OF CHICAGO PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

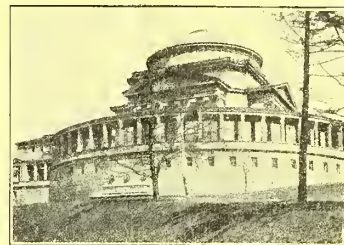
### OFFICERS

JOHN BENHAM  
BRITTON I. BUDD  
GEORGE W. DIXON  
FLETCHER M. DURBIN  
GEORGE O. FAIRWEATHER  
DAVID L. GOODWILLIE  
ROBERT H. HUNTER  
HARRY EUGENE KELLY

HARRY EUGENE KELLY, CHAIRMAN  
JOHN BENHAM, VICE-CHAIRMAN  
GEORGE T. TURNER, VICE-CHAIRMAN

LEROY A. GODDARD, TREASURER  
LINCOLN MEMORIAL FUND

FREDERICK A. LORENZ  
WILLIAM R. MOSS  
GEORGE T. TURNER  
CHARLES WARE  
IRVING WASHINGTON  
EDWARD P. WELLES  
PAUL E. WILSON



CHICAGO Aug 20<sup>th</sup> 1923

Dear Mrs Pursey.

Today Harry E. Kelly handed me your letter and I am sending you one of the utter heads of the Campaign I conducted for the above Memorial Bust of Lincoln. Placed in the Hall of Fame of N. Y. University.

On the reverse side of this sheet are two pictures, that will explain themselves. I took these pictures last January. and wrote all the literature for this Campaign.

When will you be in Chicago I will be glad to help when I know what is wanted

Yours Truly,

Edwoud F. Dodge  
Union League Club.  
Chicago.

I also conducted the Campaign to Save the Great Oak Ridge Station.

Patriotism is a spirit not acquired with birth. It must be induced into every person. It is a matter of education, environment, upbuilding and nurturing, which when attained leads men, women and children to suffer, bleed and die for their country.



**Pictures of the graves of  
THOMAS LINCOLN  
Born January 6, 1778  
Died January 15, 1851  
and  
SARAH BUSH LINCOLN  
his wife.**



**Unmarked grave X  
is that of Sarah Bush Lincoln.  
No headstone or marker.**

**X is the grave of Lincoln's Stepmother.  
The leaning shaft marks the grave of Thomas  
Lincoln, Father of the martyred President.**



# SHILOH LINCOLN MEMORIAL CLUB

JANESVILLE, ILLINOIS

The following are the present officers of the Shiloh Lincoln Memorial Club:

Harry Jones ..... President  
Mrs. F. A. Whitacre.....Vice president  
R. B. Rodgers ..... Sec.-Treas.  
A. Sumerlin.....Publicity Director  
Eerna, Illinois

Directors—R. B. Rodgers, George Grimes, L. W. Baker, W. F. Price, J. A. Grimes, R. H. Baker, Harry Dallas, W. F. Reed, Mrs. R. B. Rodgers and F. A. Whitacre.

Life membership ..... \$1.00

The Club was organized, November 19, 1922, and received its charter from the state December 5th, 1922. The monument erected to the memory of Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Lincoln was formally dedicated May 23, 1923.

## PREAMBLE

We, the patrons of the SHILOH LINCOLN MEMORIAL CLUB, and citizens of the United States, as a Chartered Association, in order to care for the Lincoln graves and the cemetery wherein the Lincoln graves are situated do adopt the following Constitution, By-Laws and Rules of Order:

## MOTTO

"Care for the Graves of the Dead as You would Have Others Care for You"

## CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE 1—NAME

This Association shall be known as the SHILOH LINCOLN MEMORIAL CLUB.

### ARTICLE 2—OFFICERS

Sec. 1 The officers of this association shall be a President, a Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and ten(10) Directors.

Sec. 2. The officers of this association shall be elected by ballot, a plurality of the votes cast being necessary to a choice.

Sec. 3. Election shall be held on January 15, of each year, the date of the death of the Father of the martyred president, Abraham Lincoln.

Sec. 4. Officers shall be installed on the date of their election or by the Secretary-Treasurer at any time thereafter.

Sec. 5 Any member shall be eligible to office upon filling all requirements.

Sec. 5. Every official vacancy shall be filled at a regular, adjourned or called meeting as soon as practicable after such vacancy is known.

Sec. 7. Each officer shall take charge

on retiring from office to his successor.

Sec. 8. All officers shall be elected for five years.

## ARTICLE 3 —DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Sec. 1. The president shall preside at all meetings of the association, call all special meetings, supply all temporary vacancies in office and perform such other duties as may devolve upon him.

Sec. 2. The vice-president shall perform the duties of the president.

Sec. 3. The Secretary-Treasurer shall receive all money of the association and carry on the correspondence of the same. All moneys shall be paid out by Secretary-Treasurer on order made by President.

Sec. 4. It shall be the duties of the directors to defend or prosecute all claims of the association, to promote the general interest thereof, to control and manage the affairs and funds and to recommend by adoption such measures as they think best to secure the prosperity of the association.

## ARTICLE 4

Any person on the approval of the board of directors may be eligible to membership and entitled to one vote in person or by certified proxy.

## ARTICLE 5.

The constitution and the by-laws and rules of order hereunto annexed may be altered or amended by two-thirds vote of the members present or their certified proxies at any regular meeting or adjourned session thereof.

## ARTICLE 6.

This constitution and by-laws hereunto annexed or such portion as may be adopted not conflicting with the laws of the State or the United States shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption.

## BY-LAWS

### ARTICLE 1.—MEETINGS

Sec. 1.—This Association shall hold its regular annual meeting in Shiloh Church Building, near cemetery, on the 15th day of January of each year at one o'clock P. M. unless otherwise ordered.

Sec. 2.—At regular or call meetings five members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum.

Sec. 3. For special or called meetings three notices shall be posted in public places specifying the time, date and object of meeting.

## RULES OF ORDER

Roberts Rules of order shall be au-

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Lerna, Illinois

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Sec. 3. For special or called meetings three notices shall be posted in public places specifying the time, date and object of meeting.

### RULES OF ORDER

Roberts Rules of order shall be authority on all points of parliamentary practice.

Address all Communications, Applications for Membership or Donations to  
**R. B. RODGERS, Secretary,**  
Janesville, Ill.



2-12 34

# ELABORATE CEREMONIES ATTEND UNVEILING OF SHAFT AT OLD GORDON

**Program Carried Out Under Auspices of Illinois  
Lions---Addresses Made by Former Gover-  
nor Frank O. Lowden, Rev. Dr. William  
E. Barton and Judge Garner---Thou-  
sands Attend the Affair.**

(Addresses of Messrs. Lowden, Barton and Garner, as well as other data pertaining to today's program, will be found on pages 6 and 7.)

Historic Mattoon and Janesville and the Old Gordon cemetery, near Janesville, formed the meccas for a host of Illinois Lions and many people who journeyed today to attend the presentation and unveiling of a new and larger monument to mark the graves of Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Lincoln, father and step-mother, respectively, of the immortal Abraham Lincoln, preserver of the union of states.

It is an epoch in the history of Illinois that has been observed today, all seemed to realize, and take pleasure in its making. The event has long been scheduled, and since that September night when the local Lions attended the exercises at Old Shiloh Presbyterian Church, adjoining the Gordon cemetery, and were feasted with an excellent dinner by the people of that community, this day has been anticipated.

Headed by Wayne C. Townley, district governor of the Lions in Illinois, many representatives of Lions clubs met here today under auspicious circumstances and contributed to the magnificence and yet soberness of the occasion.

#### **Due to Townley Suggestion.**

Today's memorial commemoration has been the acceptance and fulfillment of a suggestion by Mr. Townley made to local Lions last year when he visited Mattoon and Janesville, that a more fitting monument should mark the graves of the Lincolns, and that the Thomas Lincoln trail should be marked.

Thursday night and early this morning visiting Lions came by train and by automobile, and the program of the day was early begun, that it should be enacted most capably. Local Lions were a committee of the whole to greet and look after the comfort and pleasure of their visitors.

It was at eleven o'clock when Pearson's band took its position at the high school, and soon the formation of the parade was begun and the start made at 11:30 o'clock promptly in order to be at the Mattoon Country Club for the luncheon.

#### **How Procession Moved.**

At the front, behind the band, were automobiles bearing the members of the local G. A. R. post, then followed former Governor Frank O. Lowden and party, Rev. Dr. William E. Barton and party, Wayne C. Townley, accompanied by Frank R. Jones, president of the Mattoon Lions; Mayor Carl H. Ozee and Harry I. Hannah, chairman of the program committee of the Lions, and Judge J. F. Garner of Quincy.

Many automobiles containing visiting and local Lions followed these. United States flags, pennants, pictures of Lincoln and other suitable displays were noticed in the automobiles, while Western avenue and Broadway for the entire distance along the line of march were decorated with hunting of the national colors. Flags were seen everywhere, and in many

store windows were flags and large pictures of Lincoln draped with bunting. In some of the windows were relics of pioneer days in Illinois and Kentucky. Every effort was made to have the day Lincoln-esque.

The procession moved from the high school east on Western avenue to Nineteenth street, thence south to Broadway and east on Broadway to Sixth street. From there it left the city limits and proceeded to the Country Club.

Lions immediately felt at home in the beautiful suburban club, where decorations, flowers, pictures and a generally beautiful setting prevailed. The great dining room of the club was a picture of beauty. The tables were decorated and tastefully set, while a delicious luncheon was served.

#### Visitors Welcomed.

Little time was consumed with the luncheon program. Frank R. Jones, president of Mattoon Lions, presided and welcomed the visitors, while Mr. Townley responded, and Mr. Lowden made a short talk. An orchestra discoursed music at intervals. There appeared to be one thing about the luncheon which caused meditation, and that was the absence of Joseph G. Cannon, venerable former speaker of the House of Representatives in Washington, who had been especially invited to attend, but whose condition of health forbade his coming.

#### Start for Cemetery.

At 1:15 o'clock the Lions and veterans of the Civil War with others entered automobiles for the twelve-mile drive to the Old Gordon cemetery. Children from the public schools came with motor cars to convey the G. A. R. members to the monument unveiling.

The long line of automobiles, numbering several hundreds, scooted rapidly along the Thomas Lincoln trail, passed through Janesville, and on to the Old Gordon cemetery, the scene for all of the party.

Arriving here the spirit of reverence and awe overcame all. Levity departed as each meditated on the hallowed ground which they were about to enter. It was that silent pioneer city of the dead, that reserved space of the pioneers, set apart as their God's acre in the days when the sharp crack of the frontiersman's rifle and the sharp crack of the woodman's axe were the chief sounds to vie with those emitted by wild animals and the Indian.

Here it was that the bodies of Thomas Lincoln, and his second wife, Sarah Bush Lincoln, found their last resting place, and in which enclosure the immortal Abraham Lincoln, first martyred president of the United States of America, bade farewell to his former neighbors on the occasion of the burial of his father, and gave his solemn commission to one of the older heads of families to care for their graves during his absence.

This is the key memory which the people of this section cherish.

(Continued on page six)

ish in their hearts and fills them with a sorrowful pride over the fact that this neighborhood once was the environment of the Lincolns.

With hats removed, the Lions and accompanying multitudes entered the cemetery and proceeded to the graves of Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Lincoln, and the interesting though somewhat brief program was enacted.

#### Under Lion Auspices.

The greater event was under the auspices of the Illinois Lions clubs, represented by Mr. Townley, district governor, Bloomington, and Arthur Botschack, district secretary, Springfield, with the following state memorial committee:

Judge John F. Garner, Quincy; H. R. Van Gunter, Chicago; H. B. Hill, Springfield; Lloyd Cox, West Frank-

fort; Judge Clyde Vogelsang, Taylorville, and J. S. Wyatt, treasurer of fund, Bloomington.

#### Children Sing "America."

Harry I. Hannah was chairman of the program committee and director. The exercises at the graves were commenced by the children of the Lerna and Janesville schools singing "America." This was followed by prayer by Rev. Marlon G. Hull of Mattoon, after which Bryan H. Tivnen of Mattoon introduced Mr. Townley, who made the following remarks:

#### Mr. Townley's Remarks.

"We are here to dedicate this monument erected in memory of Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln, the father and step-mother of Abraham Lincoln. 'Illinois may well recall its con-

tribution to that great life.

"Here, in this state, were developed those talents which produced that great debater—the superior of a Stephen A. Douglas;

"Here was developed that orator whose speeches are classed with the gems of history;

"Here was inspired that patriot—ready to hold the horse of a vain McClellan, willing to bear the ridicule of a mistaken Greeley; satisfied to ignore the false clamor of a misguided minority; that this nation, of the people, by the people, for the people, might live;

"Here he gave his 'lost speech'—which pointed to his leadership in the Republican party and paved his way to the Presidency;

"Here was developed from the rough, unlettered, unknown backwoodsman, the world's greatest citizen;

"Here was the training that gave to us the patient, wise, just martyred leader who loved his country more than himself; his honor more than his station; his ideals more than his office;

"And through it all was the influence of the father and step-mother—intangible but powerful. With his struggles came the knowledge of the value of a good heredity through the one and the help of environment of the other. He honored both.

"We have come to this little country churchyard to pay tribute by the dedication of this granite to these 'whose humble but worthy home gave to the world Abraham Lincoln.' With this privilege comes the opportunity of saying these few words of long appreciation. These two belonged to Abraham Lincoln. 'He belongs to the ages.'"

A musical interspersion followed, after which Former Governor Frank O. Lowden delivered an address. The Janesville and Lerna school children sang "Illinois". Rev. Dr. William E. Barton, of Chicago, then delivered an address.

The new monument then was presented by Judge John F. Garner, of Quincy, to the Lincoln Memorial Association. It was accepted by Mrs. Susan D. Baker, president of the Shiloh Lincoln Memorial association, who said:

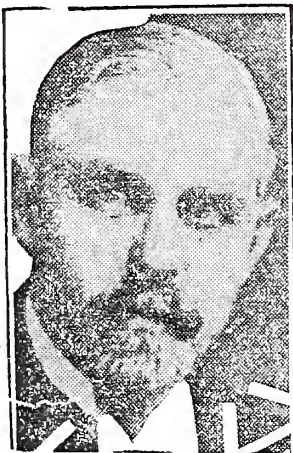
"Mr. Townley and Other Friends:

"In the name of the Shiloh Lincoln Memorial Association we thank you for this beautiful monument. We accept it from the Lions Clubs of the State of Illinois with gratitude for their work in fulfilling the wish of Abraham Lincoln which he made by the side of his father's grave in February 1861. We thank Mr. Wayne C. Townley for his assistance which made this possible.

"It is a great day for us because you have fulfilled our hopes."

The new monument was then un-





**DR. WILLIAM E. BARTON**

Pastor of the First Congregational Church, Oak Park, Ill., and a noted Lincoln student and historian



**WAYNE C. TOWNLEY**

District Governor of the Lions Clubs of Illinois



**REV. MARION HULL**

Who delivered the Invocation



**DR. S. A. CAMPBELL**

of Mattoon Post No. 404, G. A. R., who unveiled the monument



**BRYAN H. TIVNEN**

Who Introduced Wayne C. Townley, District Governor Lions Clubs of Illinois



**MRS. SUSAN D. BAKER**

Who accepted the monument



**JUDGE JOHN F. GARNER**

Who made the presentation address



**FRANK O. LOWDEN**

Former governor of Illinois



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*Shiloh Church and Gordon Cemetery Where  
Rests the Body of Abraham Lincoln's Father*

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The Shiloh church and Gordon cemetery, near Janesville, Ill., where Abraham Lincoln and his mother were buried. Over their graves the Lions of Illinois erected a beautiful monument, which was dedicated today with impressive ceremonies. The Lincoln farm was a few miles east of Janesville, where the dead trees which stood near the house. The Lincoln home was a log cabin, which was sold and taken to Chicago for exhibition purposes about the time of the world's fair in Chicago.

are buried Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Lincoln, his wife, father and step-mother. Over their graves the Lions of Illinois erected a beautiful monument, which was dedicated today with impressive ceremonies. The Lincoln farm was a few miles east of Janesville, where the dead trees which stood near the house. The Lincoln home was a log cabin, which was sold and taken to Chicago for exhibition purposes about the time of the world's fair in Chicago.



## Today's Program

MUSIC—

PEARSON'S BAND of Mattoon

"AMERICA"—

SCHOOL CHILDREN of JANA AND JANESVILLE

INVOCATION—

REV. MARION HULL, Pastor of Presbyterian Church of Mattoon

INTRODUCTION OF HON. WAYNE C. TOWNLEY  
of Illinois—

District Governor Lions Clubs

HON. BRYAN H. TOWNLEY of Mattoon

REMARKS—

HON. WAYNE C. TOWNLEY of Bloomington

ADDRESS—

HON. FRANK O. LOWDEN, Former Governor of Illinois

MUSIC—

PEARSON'S BAND, of Mattoon

ADDRESS—

DR. WILLIAM E. BARTON, Pastor of First Congregational Church  
of Oak Park

PRESENTATION OF MONUMENT—

JUDGE JOHN F. GARNER, of Quincy

UNVEILING OF MONUMENT—

DR. S. A. CAMPBELL, of Mattoon Post No. 404, G. A. R.

ACCEPTANCE OF MONUMENT—

MRS. SUSAN D. BARTON, of Janesville

"ILLINOIS"—

SCHOOL CHILDREN OF JANA AND JANESVILLE

BENEDICTION—

REV. J. C. REYNOLDS, Pastor of Shiloh Church

## Tribune of Coolidge

White House  
Washington, May 2, 1924.

My Dear Dr. Barton:

It is a source of regret to me that I cannot be present at the dedication to mark the graves of Thomas Lincoln and his second wife, Sarah; but, unfortunately, the matters which are pressing for immediate attention prevent me from contemplating any consideration.

The world's debt to Abraham Lincoln, has already been acknowledged in the standing in the midst of a beautiful park established in Indiana. It is fitting that should now be erected in honor of his second mother, Sarah Lincoln, and of those who were honest, sincere, and kind of heart. The education which they encouraged their son to secure and we which they could never is the spirit of true piety and sincere.

This stone is a tribute to the vast company of humble American men and women, of whom the Lincoln family may be considered representative. Theirs were the courage and the endurance of the pioneer; theirs were the aspiration, and the vision of better things to come which have carried American civilization across the mountains and to the farther ocean.

America's hope is in the stability and purity of its home life. This monument commemorates not simply the individuals above whose dust it is erected, but the home which they established and maintained. That home, lacking though it was in all our present luxuries and in many of our comforts, was adequate for the development of character; it gave to the world Abraham Lincoln.

Yours very truly,  
(Signed) CALVIN COOLIDGE.

Rev. William E. Barton, D. D.,  
The First Congregational Church,  
Oak Park, Ill.

regret to me that I cannot be present at the dedication to mark the graves of Thomas Lincoln and his second wife, Sarah; but, unfortunately, the matters which are pressing for immediate attention prevent me from contemplating any consideration.

Abraham Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, has already been acknowledged in the standing in the midst of a beautiful park established in Indiana. It is fitting that should now be erected in honor of his second mother, Sarah Lincoln, and of those who were honest, sincere, and kind of heart. The education which they encouraged their son to secure and we which they could never is the spirit of true piety and sincere.

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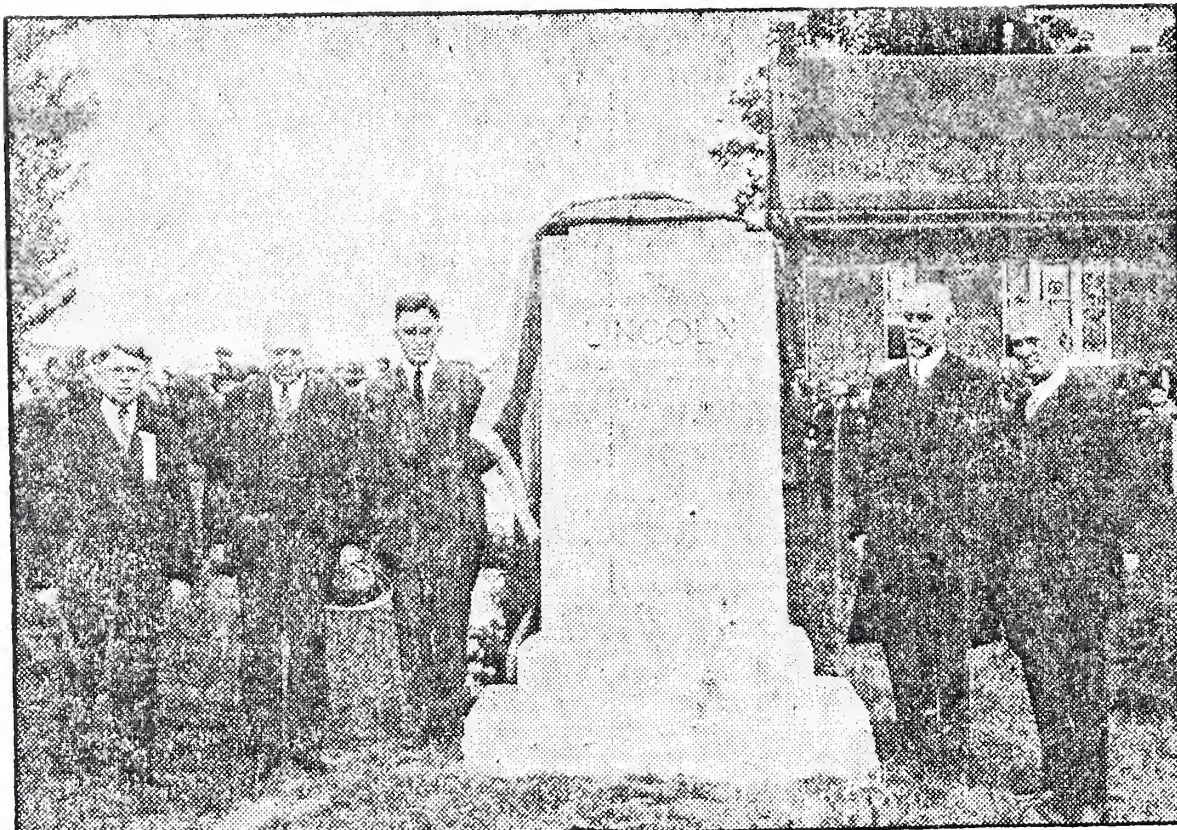
Yours very truly,  
(Signed) CALVIN COOLIDGE.



NEGLECTED NO MORE—Are the graves of Thomas Lincoln, father of Abraham Lincoln, and his wife Sarah Bush. The Lions Club of Coles county, Ill., has erected a shaft over them. Frank O. Lowden (second from left), former Illinois governor, is seen with a party at the monument.



## At the Lincoln Shaft Dedication at Janesville



*The Sunday Bulletin 5-18-24*

The above picture was taken Friday in the small cemetery near Janesville, Wis., where there was dedicated a shaft of a granite over the graves of the parents of Abraham Lincoln. Wayne Townley, of Bloomington, district governor, of the Lions Club, was instrumental in raising the fund for the monument amongst the clubs in the state. Left to right those in the picture are: Frank Jones, president, Mattoon Lions Club; ex-Governor Frank O. Lowden; Mr. Townley of Bloomington; Dr. William E. Barton, of Oak Park, who delivered the principal address, and Judge Garner of Quincy, who presented the monument to the Shiloh Cemetery Association.



# TRIBUTE TO PARENTS OF EMANCIPATOR

Monument to Memory of Thomas  
Lincoln and His Second Wife  
Dedicated.

1924

## FATHER NOT GREAT BUT GOOD, SAYS BIOGRAPHER

Letter Read From President Coolidge Paying Tribute to Pioneer Homes From Which Many People Sprang and Later Attained Greatness—Lincoln Family Held to Be Representative.

By Associated Press.

Janesville, Ill., May 16.—Thomas Lincoln, father of President Lincoln, Washington, May 6.—Secretary was not a great man, but he was a good neighbor, honest, sober, religious, truthful, and paid his taxes, said Dr. William E. Barton, of Oak Park, Ill., authority on Lincoln, whose family history he personally traced, in an address at the dedication here today of a monument to Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Lincoln, stepmother of the emancipator.

A letter from President Coolidge paying tribute to the virtues which made possible the greatness of Abraham Lincoln was read.

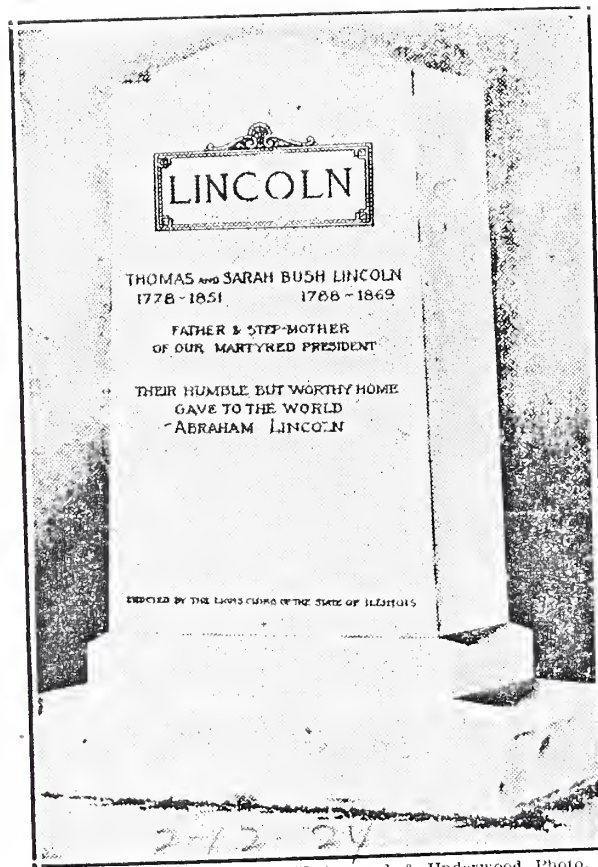
"The world's debt to Abraham Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln," wrote President Coolidge, "has already been acknowledged in the appropriate monument standing in the midst of a beautiful park established and maintained by the state of Indiana. It is fitting that a similar expression of gratitude should now be erected in honor of his second mother, Sarah Lincoln, and of his father, Thomas Lincoln. Humble as these two people were, their virtues are those which constitute the basis of our American institutions. They were honest, sober, virtuous and kind of heart. The education which they lacked they encouraged their son to secure, and were proud when he rose to a position which they could never themselves have attained. This is the spirit of true parenthood, sacrificial, devoted and sincere.

### Tribute to Pioneers.

"This stone is a tribute also to the vast company of humble men and women of whom the Lincoln family may be considered representative.

Theirs were the courage and the endurance of the pioneer settlers, were the aspiration and the vision of better things to come which have carried American civilization across the mountains and to the further ocean.

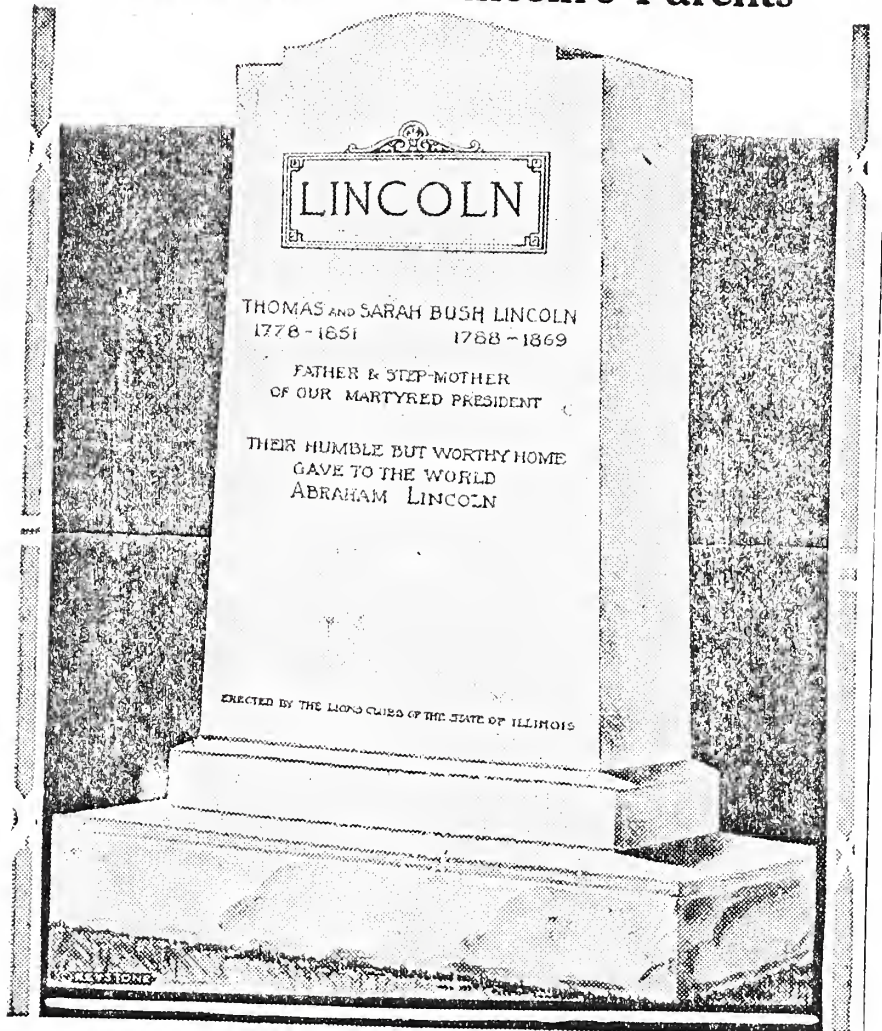
"America's hope is in the stability and purity of its home life. This monument commemorates not simply the individuals above whose dust it is erected, but the home which they established and maintained. That home, lacking tho it was in all our present luxuries and many of our comforts, was adequate for the development of character; it gave to the world Abraham Lincoln."



—Underwood & Underwood Photo.

**LINCOLN'S PARENTS' GRAVES ARE  
NEGLECTED**—A new monument is to be  
dedicated today at the graves of the father  
and stepmother of Abraham Lincoln at  
Janesville, Coles county, Illinois, by the  
Lions' club of Illinois.

## For Graves of Lincoln's Parents



Monument which has been erected in the little country cemetery near Janesville, Ill., over the graves of the father and step-mother of Abraham Lincoln. The monument was erected by the Lions Clubs of Illinois and the graves are being cared for by them. Before this the two head stones over the graves were so chipped and broken by vandals and souvenir seekers that it became a really shameful sight.



# Dr. Barton, at Dedication 1927 of Stone to Lincoln's Parents, Reveals His Family History

JANESVILLE, Ill., May 15.—Thomas Lincoln was not a great man, but he was a good neighbor, honest, sober, religious, truthful and paid his taxes, said Dr. William E. Barton of Oak Park, author of many books on Lincoln and who has devoted much original research to tracing Lincoln's family history, in an address today at the dedication of a monument to Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Lincoln, father and step-mother of the Emancipator.

Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Lincoln lie buried in the old Shiloh cemetery, three and one-half miles from their home on Goose Nest Prairie, near Farmington, Ill. Thomas' grave was formerly marked by a monument, but it had been badly chipped and defaced. His wife's grave, which adjoins his, had never been marked.

A letter from President Coolidge was read at the ceremony paying tribute to the virtues which made possible the boyhood home of Abraham Lincoln. Frank O. Lowden, former governor of Illinois, spoke of Abraham Lincoln himself, and his influence upon the nation and the world. Dr. Barton spoke chiefly of the father and step-mother, making many statements which contradicted data given by other writers on Lincoln.

## Debt Is Acknowledged

"The world's debt to Abraham Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln," wrote President Coolidge, has already been acknowledged in the appropriate monument standing in the midst of a beautiful park established and maintained by the state of Indiana. It is fitting that a similar expression of gratitude should now be erected in honor of his second mother, Sarah Lincoln, and of his father, Thomas Lincoln. Humble as these two people were their virtues are those which constitute the basis of our American institutions. They were honest, sober, virtuous, and kind of heart. The education which they lacked they encouraged their son to secure and were proud when he rose to a position which they could never themselves have attained. This is the spirit of true parenthood, sacrificial, devoted and sincere.

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## Spoke Well of Him

"These were two honest, God-fearing people," said Dr. Barton in his address. I have visited people who knew Thomas and they speak well of him. These people were children in 1851 (when he died) or before, and he was an old man, but they loved 'Grandfather Lincoln' as the neighborhood called him."

Dr. Barton spoke of Thomas as a "Carpenter of rather more than ordinary skill," schooled in the use of the lathe for making spinning-wheels, and the maker of coffins which "crumble under foot in this cemetery with the dust they once inclosed". When his pastor preached his funeral sermon, the speaker added, "I have testimony to the effect that it could be heard a good half mile".

Sarah was "a good mother to her whole flock," he said, adding "Abraham Lincoln held her in honor, and we do well to honor her. Though pitted for marrying Thomas Lincoln, she never felt the need for any such pity."

"The father of Thomas Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln, was born on Linville Creek, in what is now Rockingham county, Virginia, January 6, 1778. This and not the date sometimes given is correct. His mother was not Mary Shipley, but Bathsheba Herring. His father was not married twice but only once, and she long survived her husband. The Mary Shipley who is said to have been the mother of Thomas, or if not his mother his father's wife by an earlier or later marriage, is a myth. The family migrated to Kentucky, and Abraham Lincoln was killed by the Indians, not where Louisville stands, nor in Hardin nor in Washington county—for I have been shown four different places where he died and have had to look up the real place—but near the site of the Long Run Baptist church, which stands on land that belonged to him, in Jefferson county, near the Shelby county line. I think his body lies in the Long Run church yard, in a cemetery not unlike this where we are gathered, and is quite possibly under the building itself, as it now stands.

## Died in 1851

"Thomas Lincoln was the youngest of the three sons of this pioneer. The date of his death was wrongly given on the old tombstone that stood here. He died January 17, 1851. His first wife, Nancy Hanks, was born in Virginia about 1783 or 1784. Those who profess to give the exact date of her birth do not know. She was approaching her twenty-third birthday when, on June 12, 1806, she married Thomas Lincoln. She died in Spencer county, Indiana, October 5, 1818. She was a worthy and virtuous woman, and Lincoln owed much to her.

"The second wife of Thomas Lincoln, Sarah Bush, was a widow. She was born in Kentucky, December 13, 1788. She married, March 13, 1806, Daniel Johnston, tailor of Hardin county. He died leaving her three children and a large number of debts. She needed a home and a husband just as Thomas Lincoln needed a home-maker and a wife. She was a good mother to her own children, and to Abraham Lincoln and his sister Sarah, and to Dennis Hanks, then a member of the family though the death of his own mother, Nancy Hanks, Hall, and her

husband Levi Hall, and his foster-parents, Thomas and Elizabeth Sparrow. These are the correct relationships and names, though they contradict most of the literature on the subject. She died, December 10, 1869, and her grave has never had any marker until today. Abraham Lincoln held her in honor, and we do well to honor her.

"The Lincoln family was not a low-grade family; neither was it of distinguished lineage. It was good, average American stock, pure Anglo-Saxon. I do not find any inter-marriages that bring in other nationalities; neither were any of the Lincolns Quakers, though they lived for a time among Quakers. They were Baptists from Virginia into Kentucky, and through Indiana into Illinois.

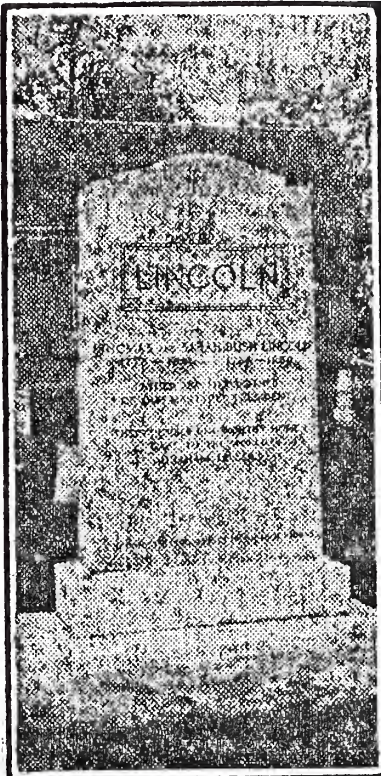
"Thomas Lincoln could hang a door or frame window, and could mortise and dove-tail. He had as much skill as he needed. The Lincolns generally had a good deal of skill in the use of tools. I have an account book of his nephew, the younger Merdecia Lincoln a carpenter in Hancock county and a contemporary of Thomas. He charged six dollars for a coffin for an adult and three dollars for a child.

"Thomas and Nancy Lincoln were members of the Little Mount Baptist church in Hardin county, Kentucky. He took his letter to Indiana, and when the Baptist church was organized on Little Pigeon Creek he joined by letter and Sallie Bush on 'experience'. They brought their letters with them to Illinois, but there was no Baptist church at hand, and they became members of the Disciples of Christ. The minister of that church in Charleston preached his funeral sermon.

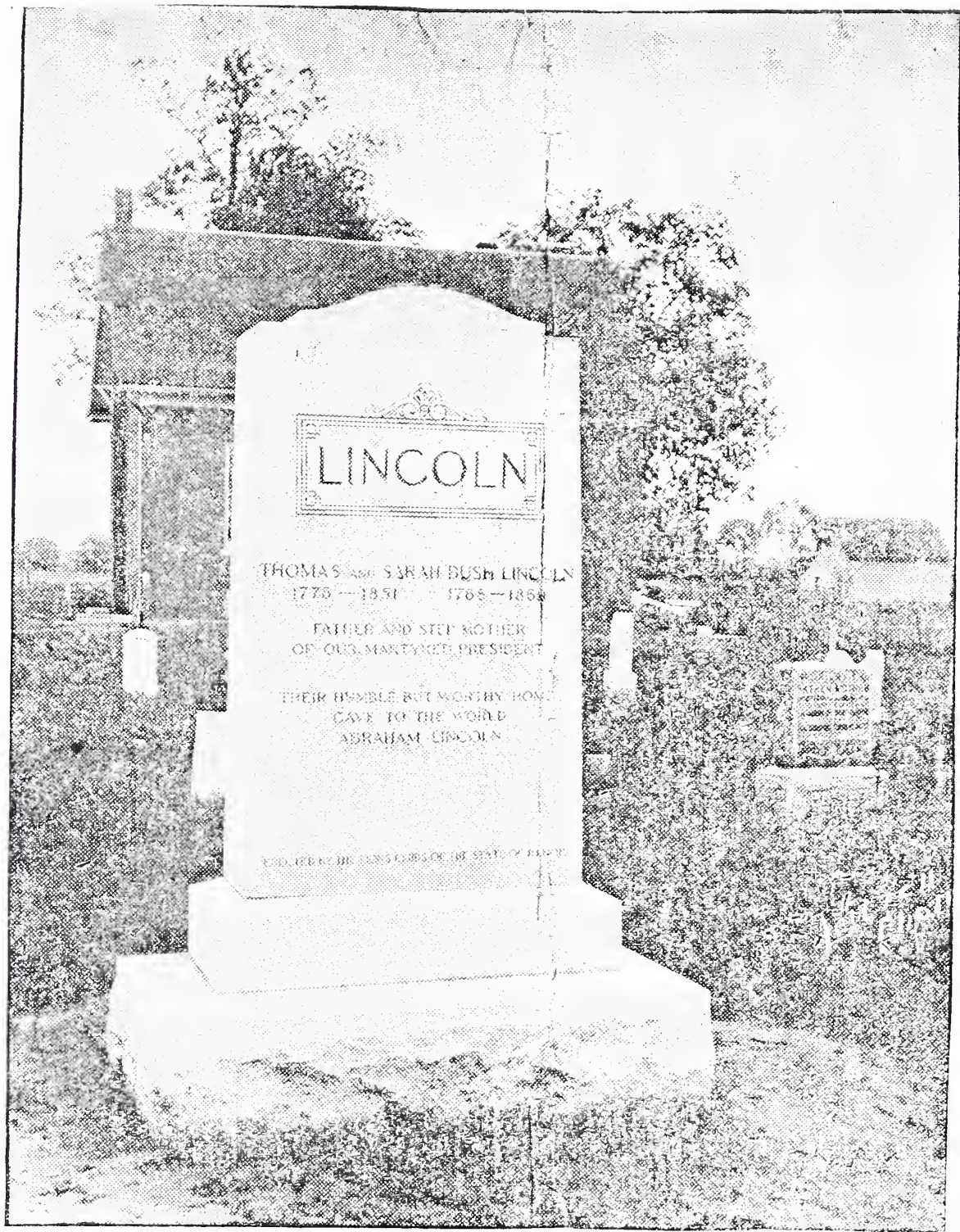
"I have the record of Thomas Lincoln almost from his cradle to his grave. He had money and owned live-stock in Kentucky. He bought at auction the best cows, as judged by the prices, and he bought knives and forks and bowls and plates. Nancy's kitchen was adequately furnished. When she needed a doctor she had one and Thomas Lincoln paid his doctor bills, a rather rare virtue. He also paid his taxes, many of his neighbors being regularly delinquent."



## ABE'S FOLKS



This monument today marks the graves of Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln, father and stepmother of Abraham Lincoln, in the little Gordon Cemetery, near Mattoon, Ill. It was erected by the Lions' Clubs of Illinois.



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CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS, FRIDAY, MAY 16, 1924.

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The dedication of the Lincoln shaft in the Gordon cemetery, near the Shiloh church, south of Charleston, Friday afternoon was attended by a large number of Coles county and Illinois citizens, many coming quite a distance to be present at the dedication and presentation of the artistic shaft of granite to the memory of Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Lincoln.

Early Friday morning the business district of Charleston was richly decorated in American flags, and numerous autos carrying visitors to the Gordon cemetery arrived in Charleston.

Many members of the Grand Army of the Republic, Women's Relief Corps, Daughters of Veterans and other patriotic and civic organizations, accompanied by numerous citizens, motored to the cemetery to witness the imposing ceremonies.

The Lions club at Mattoon entertained 350 or more at a dinner given at the Mattoon Country Club, where a short program of talks and music was given. Short addresses were made by former Governor Lowden, Dr. William E. Barton, pastor of the Oak Park Congregational church of Chicago, an authority on Lincoln, Wayne Townley of Bloomington, governor of the Lions club of Illinois, and others.

Mattoon's business and a great part of the residential district was decorated in the national colors, and many exhibits of Lincoln relics were displayed in the show windows of many of the business houses.

Following the dinner at the Country Club, a monster parade was formed at the Mattoon High school at 2 o'clock, and led by the Mattoon band, the parade of motor cars began wending their way to the cemetery where the dedication exercises were held during the afternoon.

Many auto parties arrived there early during the forenoon and enjoyed a picnic dinner before the opening of the program.

The dedication program: America, sung by the school children of Lerna and Janesville.

Invocation by the Reverend Marion Hull of Mattoon.

Remarks, by Wayne C. Townley of Bloomington, Governor of the Lions' clubs of Illinois, and largely responsible for the inauguration of the movement which led to the erection of the monument.

Music.

Address, by Frank O. Lowden, former governor of Illinois.

Song, Illinois, by the Lerna and Janesville school children.

Address, by Dr. Wm. E. Barton, pastor of the Oak Park Congregational church and recognized as an authority on the life and paternity of Abraham Lincoln.

Presentation of monument to memory of Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Lincoln to the Lincoln Memorial Association, by John F. Garner of Quincy.

Acceptance of monument, by Mrs. Susan D. Baker in behalf of the Lincoln Memorial Association. Mrs. Baker has lived near the cemetery for years and has been active in encouraging, and compelling, a larger degree of care to the graves of the parents of Abraham Lincoln than they would have received had it not been for her activities.

Benediction, by Reverend Reynolds of Janesville.

Wayne C. Townley, governor of the Illinois Lions' clubs, while on a speaking tour in this section of the country, visited the Gordon cemetery to view the Lincoln graves and then and there began the movement to erect a suitable marker for their graves, and the granite shaft dedicated today shows the successful termination of his efforts.

The marker bears the inscription: "Lincoln—Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln: 1778-1851; 1788-1869.

"Father and stepmother of our martyred President.

"Their humble but worthy home gave to the world Abraham Lincoln."

#### Ex-Governor Lowden's Speech

Ex-Governor Lowden spoke of the many myths regarding Lincoln and his ancestry which sprang up following his martyrdom. But he gave credit to Dr. Barton and to Miss Ida M. Tarbell for their exhaustive efforts toward straightening out those questions and putting the truth before the American people regarding the Lincoln family. And today, he said, we see Thomas Lincoln not as a so-called "poor white" but rather as a member of that vanguard of hardy pioneers which built the mighty states west of the Allegheny mountains, and the Hanks family likewise is seen as one which had a long and honorable record in the pioneer up-building.

He spoke of the fact that where many men had views Lincoln had convictions, and for that reason Lincoln stood out as a man who answered for all time many of the questions of human liberty and of human rights. That we have known ever since Lincoln's death that he was America's most perfect product, but it was not until the World War that we realized what he meant to the whole world, when we found Lloyd George in England and Clemenceau in France giving expression to Lincoln's words that gave the highest inspiration of the forces fighting the battles of civilization.

Mr. Lowden quoted Lincoln's Fast Day Proclamation which was issued in the darkest days of the Civil War, when Lincoln expressed great grati-

tude to God for the preservation of the nation, and called upon the people to humble themselves and confess their national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness, and then reset in the hope authorized by the divine teachings that the united cry of the nation would be heard on high and answered with the blessings of the pardon of the national sins and the restoration of the then divided and suffering country to its former happy condition of unity and peace.

"We are confronted with grave and perplexing problems," Mr. Lowden said in closing. "Civilization itself seems to be hanging in the balance. The world is drifting whither no man knows. How quickly all this would change if these words of Lincoln could enter and hold the heart of the world in these troublous times.

"The cause of democracy is the cause of humanity. Democracy concerns itself with the welfare of the average man. Lincoln was its finest product. In life he was its noblest champion. In death he became its saint. His tomb is now its shrine. His country's cause for which he lived and died has now become the cause of all the world. It is more than half a century since his countrymen, with reverent hands, bore him to his grave. And still his pitiless logic for the right, his serene faith in God and man, are the sword and shield with which democracy, humanity and righteousness everywhere oppose their foes."

#### Dr. Barton's Speech

Among the many splendid things Dr. Barton said were the following:

"We have assembled to pay a tribute of honor and respect to the memory of a very humble man and woman. An event of this character related so intimately to the life of Abraham Lincoln cannot occur in any remotest spot in America and not attract the attention of the whole country.

"Lincoln himself has visited this spot. Where our feet are standing his feet have stood and with like reason that here he might honor his father. A kindred respect for his father, then dead, and for his stepmother, then living three and one-half miles from here brought Lincoln here in February, 1861, in order that before he left for his inaugural as President he might pay his respect to the two people whose dust is buried beneath this stone.

"Thomas Lincoln was born on Linville Creek, in that part of Augusta which is now Rockingham County, Virginia, January 6, 1778. His father, Abraham, was a captain in the militia. Abraham Lincoln married, not Mary Shipley, as is claimed in many books, but Bathsheba Herring, the marriage license bearing date of June 9, 1779, and but once, and not twice, as is often asserted, and his widow survived him many years. The family migrat-



ed to Kentucky about 1782, and Abraham was killed by Indians, not in 1784, as is usually stated, but in May, 1786. Thomas Lincoln, a lad of eight, saw his father murdered, and witnessed the swift revenge of his elder brother, Mordecai, a lad of fourteen, who took careful aim through a crack in the log wall of the cabin, and shot the Indian who had killed his father.

"Thomas was the youngest of three sons of Abraham and Bathsheba Lincoln, his brothers being named Mordecai and Josiah. He had also one older sister Mary, and a sister two years younger than himself, Nancy.

"Thomas Lincoln, the youngest son of these two pioneers, Abraham and Bathsheba, removed from Kentucky to Indiana in the autumn of 1816, and to Macon County, Illinois, in the spring of 1830. He came to Goose Nest Prairie, three and one-half miles from this spot, in 1832, and lived there until his death, January 17, 1851.

"His first wife was Nancy Hanks, who was born in Virginia about 1784. The exact date of her birth is unknown, and the books that profess to give it previously base their declarations on no documentary proof. She was approaching her twenty-third birthday when, on June 18, 1806, she married Thomas Lincoln. She was a tall, slender, and rather frail woman, of dark complexion, and a high forehead. From her, as he believed, her son Abraham inherited some of his best traits. She was a virtuous and worthy woman, and her son honored her memory. She died near Gentryville, Indiana, October 5, 1818, at the age of 35. Her grave is worthily marked, and is surrounded by a park, owned and maintained by the State of Indiana.

"Sarah Bush, a daughter of Christopher Bush, was born in Hardin County, Kentucky, December 13, 1788. She married, March 13, 1806, Daniel Johnston, the jailer of that county. Her first husband died in October, 1818, leaving her with three small children and a very heavy indebtedness. On December 2, 1819, she married Thomas Lincoln. Her possessions in furniture were considered as compared with his, and as he had journeyed from Indiana back to Kentucky on horseback to court her, he had to borrow from his brother-in-law a wagon to transport her and her belongings, including her three children, to the new home in Indiana. From this it has been inferred that Thomas Lincoln owned no horses of his own at the time. On the contrary, he owned horses, one or more, and sometimes as many as four or five, from the time he reached the age of twenty-one until he left Kentucky. More-

and I have this story direct from Bush's own relatives, she was unwilling to marry and leave unpaid debts behind her, and Thomas Lincoln was prepared for that emergency, and paid up her debts before their marriage. She has been greatly pitied for having married so shiftless a man as Thomas Lincoln, but that pity has been wasted. She needed a home and a husband quite as much as he needed a wife, and his two children and her three profited equally by the marriage. She died December 10, 1869, and her grave has never been marked until this day, that witnesses the unveiling of a suitable monument

to the memory of herself and her husband.

"The family from which Thomas Lincoln was descended was a thoroughly respectable family. It was of pure English descent, and came to America first by way of Massachusetts. In the Revolutionary War there were many colonial soldiers named Lincoln from Massachusetts and a very few from any other state. Thomas Lincoln was of the sixth generation in descent from Samuel Lincoln, who was born in England about 1619 and settled at Hingham, Mass., before 1640. Of the second generation, Mordecai, son of Samuel and Martha Lincoln, of Hingham, Mass., was born June 24, 1657, and died at Scituate, Mass., Nov. 28, 1727. In the third generation, Mordecai, son of Mordecai and Sarah (Jones) Lincoln, was born at Hingham, April 24, 1686, and died at Amity, Pa., May 12, 1737. In the fourth generation, John, son of Mordecai and Hannah (Salter) Lincoln, was born at Freehold, New Jersey, May 3, 1716, and died at Linville Creek, Virginia, in November, 1788. In the fifth generation, Abraham, son of John and Rebecca (Flowers) Lincoln, was born in Berks County, Pennsylvania, May 13, 1744; married Bathsheba Herring, removed to Rockingham County, Virginia, where his three sons and two daughters were born. He migrated to Kentucky in 1782, and was killed there by Indians in May, 1786. This is a line of pure English descent, and it is not known that at any point there was inter-marriage with any widely divergent strain. All of these American ancestors of Thomas Lincoln could read and write, and so could he; though his education was very meager.

"This was not a low-grade family. It was a good, average, undistinguished American family. The Lincolns in the hills of Kentucky were of the same stock as the Lincolns in the Blue Grass, and these were the same in lineage as those in Tennessee and Virginia, and of close kin to those in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts.

## Tribute is Paid Thomas Lincoln and Wife.

1764

Janesville, Ill., May 26.—Thomas Lincoln, father of President Lincoln, was not a great man, but he was a good neighbor, honest, sober, religious, truthful and paid taxes, said Dr. W. E. Barton, of Oak Park, authority on Lincoln, whose family history he traced in an address at the dedication today of a monument to Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Lincoln, step-mother of the emancipator.

A letter from President Coolidge was read at the ceremony held under the auspices of the Lions Club of Illinois, paying tribute to the virtues which made possible the boyhood home of Abraham Lincoln.

Frank O. Lowden, former governor of Illinois, spoke of Abraham Lincoln and his influence on the nation and the world.

Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Lincoln are buried in the old Shiloh cemetery, 3 1-2 miles from their home at Goose Nest Prairie near Farmington. Thomas' grave was formerly marked by a monument, but it had been badly chipped and defaced. His wife's, adjoining, had never been marked.

"The world's debt to Abraham Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln," wrote President Coolidge, "has already been acknowledged in the appropriate monument standing in the midst of a beautiful park established and maintained by Indiana. It is fitting that a similar expression of gratitude should now be erected in honor of his second mother, Sarah Lincoln, and of his father, Thomas Lincoln. Humble as these two people were, their virtues are those which constitute the basis of our American institutions. They were honest, sober, virtuous and kind of heart. The education which they lacked they encouraged their son to secure and were proud when he rose to a position which they could never themselves have attained. This is the spirit of true parenthood, sacrificial, devoted and sincere."

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lincoln are former residents of Elizabethtown.

E. L. News.

## ANOTHER MEMORIAL GRAVE

*Shiloh, Ill. 6-6-29*  
Memorial Day was appropriately observed at the Shilo-Gordon cemetery southwest of Charleston Illinois, in honor of Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Lincoln, stepmother of Abraham Lincoln.

Mrs. Eleanor Gridley, of Chicago, author of a late volume published on the life of Lincoln, was the principal speaker. The service was held in the Shilo church, a beautiful brick structure on the cemetery ground.

Adolph Sumerlin, who several generations ago lived in Shelbyville and went to school with Web Cook and William Craig, was present at the meeting, and rightly it was expected of him to be there as the sponsor of the National Lincoln Memorial Highway, connecting all major Lincoln shrines along the line between Beardstown and a point opposite Vincennes, Ind.

A resolution introduced by the association through Homer J. Tice, chairman of the house appropriation committee, asking for a survey of, and the erection of suitable markers along the proposed road has been passed by the state legislature.

## AUTHORITY ON LINCOLN

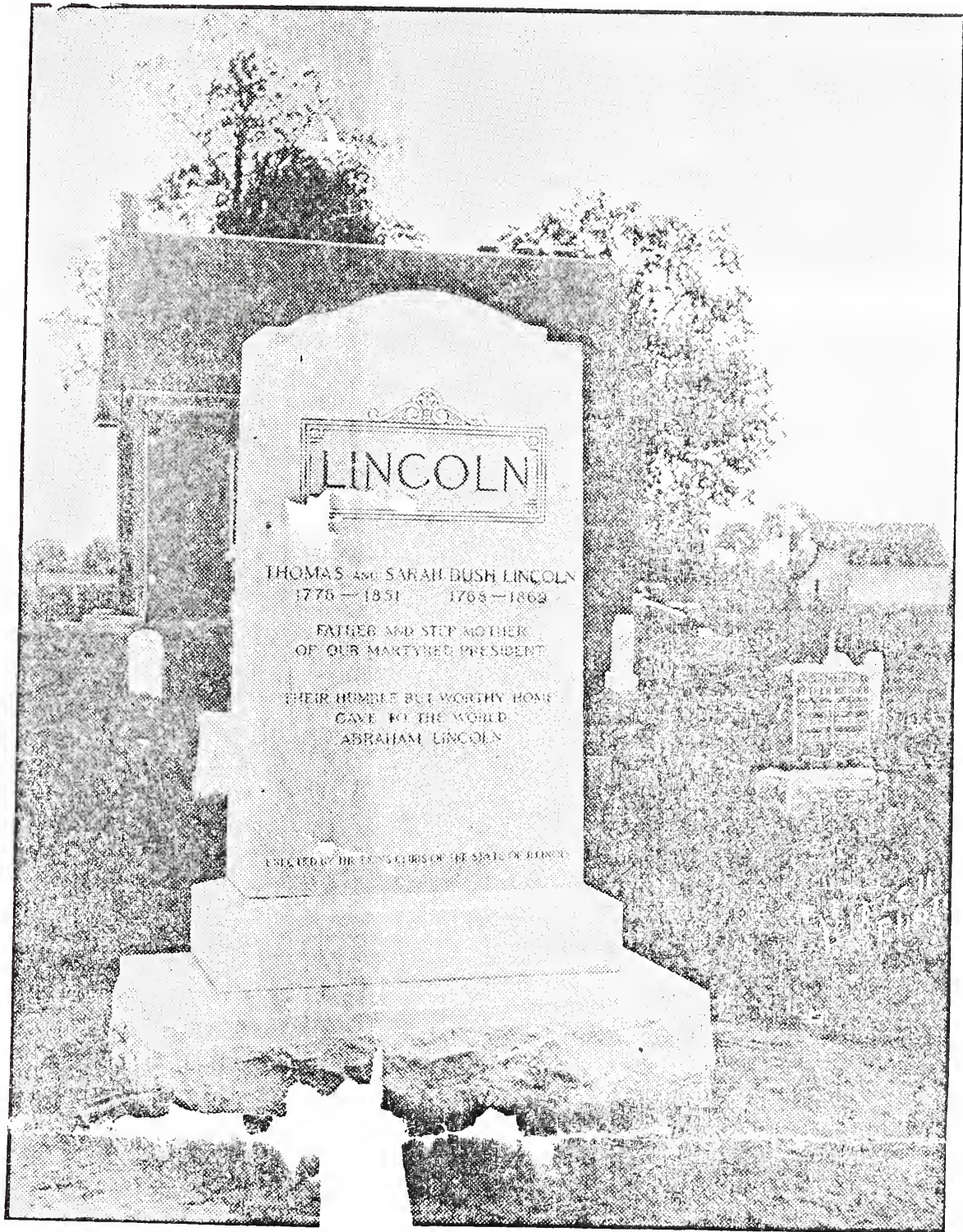
### SPEAKS AT SHILOH GRAVE

*Chicago American 5-27-29*  
Mrs. Eleanor Gridley, 5844 Harper av., author of "The Story of Abraham Lincoln," left today for Mattoon, Ill., where she will be the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Sumerlin who have taken an active part in the movement to secure the

Thomas Lincoln homestead. To-morrow Mrs. Gridley will give a Memorial Day address at Shiloh, Lincoln's father and stepmother are buried. Cemetery, Janesville, Ill., where Lin-



## ***Monument Erected by Illinois Lions Clubs Over Graves of Abraham Lincoln's Parents***

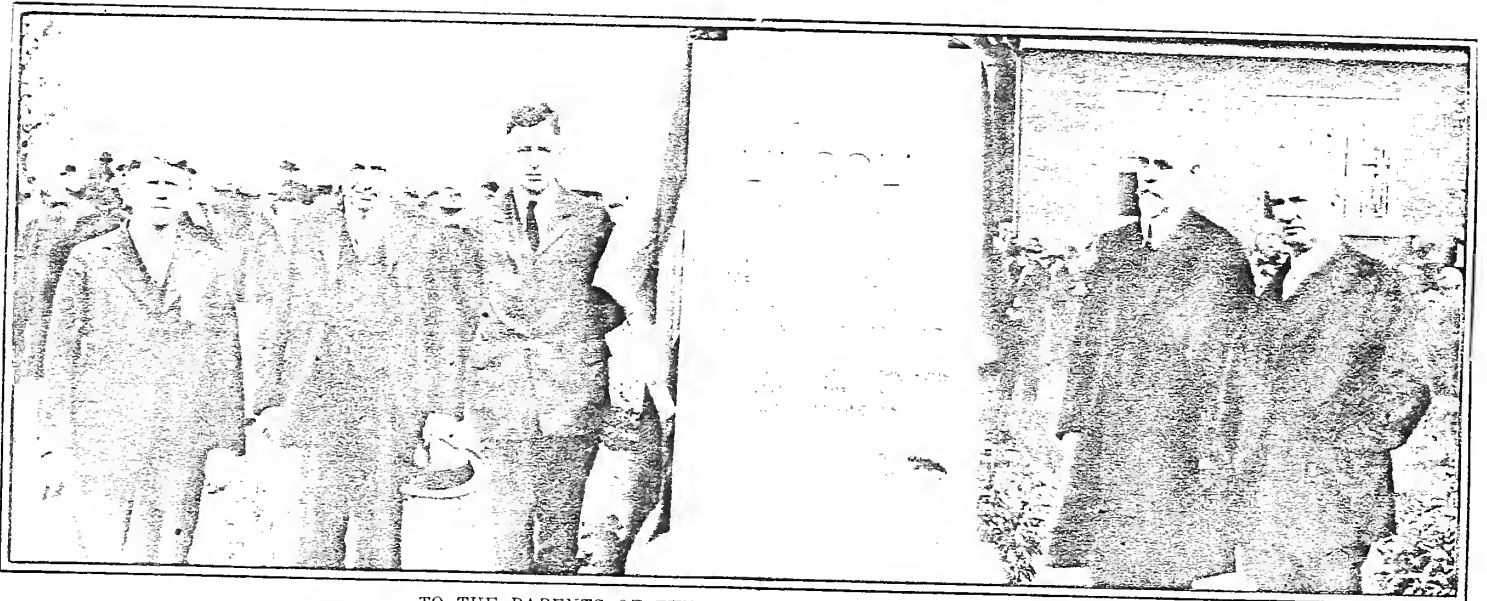


This fine granite monument marks the graves of Thomas Lincoln and his wife Sarah Bush Lincoln. The Lincoln graves for many years have been marked by a marble shaft which Robert T. Lincoln, a son of Abraham Lincoln, had erected. The monument has been moved to make way for the new monument shown above. The Shiloh Church is shown in the background of the picture.

The monument was erected by the Lions clubs of Illinois over the graves of Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln, the father and step-mother of Abraham Lincoln. The monument is in the Old Gordon cemetery near Janesville and the marble shaft which Robert T. Lincoln, a son of Abraham Lincoln, had erected. The monument has been moved to make way for the new monument shown above. The Shiloh Church is shown in the background of the picture.



Mid-Week Pictorial, February 12, 1925



TO THE PARENTS OF THE MARTYRED PRESIDENT: SHAFT

Recently Erected by the Lions Club to Mark the Last Resting Place in the Cemetery at Janesville, Ill., of Thomas Lincoln and His Wife, Sarah Bush Lincoln, Father and Stepmother of the Former President, Ex-Governor Lowden Delivering the Dedication Address.

(Times Wide World Photos.)

# Guards Grave of the Lincolns

ESSIE REAMS In Illinois Central Magazine, February, 1927.

The growth of the railroads of our country is so closely interwoven with the growth of the country itself that it is impossible to separate the two. Our own great railroad is no exception. Most of the territory served by the Illinois Central System is rich in traditions and historical lore. Coles county and Mason county, Illinois, for example, served by the Illinois Central System were the scenes of the early activities of one of the greatest and most beloved characters in our history—Abraham Lincoln—during his young manhood, when he studied and practiced law and entered political life.

In studying the lives of great men, it is fitting for a moment to consider their parents and become better acquainted with them. In Shiloh Cemetery, near Janesville, Ill., about eleven miles south of Mattoon, in the shadow of a little country church, are buried Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln, father and step-mother of the martyred president. Their graves, until the last two or three years, were practically forgotten except by a faithful few living in that vicinity. These few in November, 1922, formed the Shiloh Lincoln Memorial Club to care for the graves. Mrs. Susan D. Baker, 76 years old, mother of our local surgeon at Mattoon, Dr. J. G. Baker, helped to organize the Memorial Club and is now its president.

## Care of Cemetery Her Life Work

Born and reared in the vicinity of this little cemetery, Mrs. Baker has for years taken care of the graves herself. Her life work is to have a perpetual care fund established or to have the place made a national cemetery. During the last few years she has been able to see the beginning of the realization of her hopes.

It is most interesting to visit the neat little white farmhouse at Janesville where Mrs. Baker lives with her daughter and son-in-law. She is a sweet-faced little old lady, whose eyes are now dimmed to almost total blindness and whose body is frail, but whose spirit remains undaunted. A fire of determination still burns brightly within her to work on the last for her cause.

The land where Shiloh Cemetery is now located was entered in 1836 by a Mr. Summer and a few years later was bought by Isaac W. Rodgers, father of Mrs. Baker, who in turn deeded the land over to three trustees to be used as a cemetery. It was then known as the Gordons Cemetery. Later on a new cemetery was started at Janesville and was also called Gordons; so the older one became known as Shiloh, after

the church near which it is located. Every year funds were obtained by subscription from the hard-working farmers in the community to care for the cemetery, but every year, owing to the death of so many of the older people, the fund has become smaller and smaller. Outside help must now be depended upon to care for it.

In 1880 a monument was erected by popular subscription, but it was inscribed with the name of Thomas Lincoln only, not including the name of Mrs. Lincoln, who lay beside him. This omission grieved Mrs. Baker considerably, and rightly so, as it is well known what a tremendous influence Mrs. Lincoln was in the life of her step-son. Moreover, the monument was chipped so much by souvenir hunters as to become hopelessly defaced.

## New Monument Dedicated

In the spring of 1923, Wayne C. Townley of Bloomington, Ill., district governor of the Lions' Club of Illinois, while visiting the Lions' Club of Mattoon, paid a visit to the cemetery and to Mrs. Baker. Not even a trail was marked at this time to guide visitors to the spot. The matter was called to the attention of the Mattoon Lions' Club, the members of which immediately became active. The trail from Mattoon to Shiloh Cemetery was marked by using an orange circle, in which were printed in dark blue the letters "T. L. T." (Thomas Lincoln Trail). Also \$3,000 was raised by the Lion of the state, and a suitable monument was erected and dedicated on February 12, 1924. It is to be regretted that even now there is no paved road leading to this spot, not even a well oiled one, so that in the winter it is almost impossible to visit the place.

After making their home in Mason

County, near Decatur, Ill., the Lincolns moved in 1881 to a little farm two miles southwest of Lerna, Ill. About four years later they moved to a place about two miles east of Janesville, where they lived until the death of Thomas Lincoln in January, 1851. Mr. Lincoln is described as being about 5 feet 8 inches tall, weighing about 160 pounds. He wore what would be long hair for a man today and no beard. Mrs. Baker declares positively that, contrary to the general ideal of him, Thomas Lincoln (or "Uncle Tommy," as he was called by his neighbors) was a good man, well liked by his neighbors and a great church-goer, as he had been to her father's house many times to worship.

The name of Shiloh was given to the little church community in 1833, prior to the coming of the Lincolns. When the community was organized, in Mr. Rodgers' house, the members had no church building and met at one another's homes and in the summer under the trees. As was then usually the case, the social as well as the religious life of the little community centered around the church. In 1877 a church building was put up. In 1921 the present church, a brick structure, was built, but the old one still remains standing.

Mrs. Baker for many years has gathered data from the neighbors and others who knew the Lincolns personally, has jotted down dates and has kept an account of the information she has been able to obtain. She also has had some

interesting experiences of her own. In speaking of Abraham Lincoln, she says:

## Lincoln was Family Lawyer

"The first I know of Abraham Lincoln was when I was a very small girl, about six years old. He acted as my father's lawyer. Father owned a herd of horses which strayed a considerable distance from home and met another herd owned by a man named Steward. When the two herds parted to return to their own homes, one colt of my father's went with the other herd. One reason I can so well remember the incident is that I was particularly interested in this colt, as it was the only one we had, and we felt the loss very much. Father advertised for it and was informed that the colt was with Mr. Steward's herd. When he went to see it he recognized it, but Mr. Steward declared that it was one of his own and that he would not give it up. He was probably honest in his opinion, as he had not seen his herd for some time.

"Anyway, they decided to have a law suit, and father went to Charleston (the county seat) and hired Abe Lincoln, who was then riding circuit, as his lawyer. Lincoln told him to tie the colt and then to tie its mother a certain distance on one side of the colt and the mare from the other herd an equal distance on the other side of the colt.



When untied, Lincoln said, the colt would go to its mother. This was done. When untied, the colt played around a bit and then made straight for its rightful mother. This evidence was used in court, and the colt was awarded to my father.

"The first time I saw Abraham Lincoln was on September 18, 1858, the day of the Lincoln-Douglas debate at Charleston. Everyone went for miles around who could possibly get there, and excitement ran high, because Abe was a farm boy, he was known to many in this vicinity, and his parents had lived here so long. We went in our spring wagon with the delegation from Farmington. In this delegation was a large spring wagon which the farmers in the community had worked long and hard constructing and decorating with red, white and blue. It was drawn by four horses and contained a group of girls, my sister among them, all wearing white dresses with pink caps and blue sashes. The girls who did not already own white dresses made them for the occasion.

"There were thrills a-plenty for me that day. When we reached the old Kickapoo bridge, we met Abraham Lincoln, who came down with the Mattoon delegation. He was riding in a covered buggy, which was in itself an unusual sight at that time. We all stopped, Lincoln's buggy right next to our wagon and Lincoln stepped out on the step of the buggy, so close to me I could have touched him, and said, referring to the wagon load of girls:

" 'Gentlemen, I thank you for this basket of flowers.' I remember him well; he was tall and wore a large beaver hat.

"We went on to Charleston. Lincoln stopped in front of a house there, and a little old lady wearing a black cape stepped out, threw her arms around him and said, 'Oh, Abe, I always knew you would get to be president.' This was Sarah Bush Lincoln, and sure enough in two years her prediction came true. All these things remain so clear and vivid in my mind that it has always seemed to me God had a work for me to do.

"The next time I saw Lincoln he came to my father's house in February, 1861, before he was inaugurated, and asked my father to go with him to see his father's grave. They went over to the old cemetery, where Lincoln stood by his father's grave and wept, saying that the country was approaching a critical time and that he never expected to get back here again—and he never did.

### Unmarked Graves

"There was no marker at the grave, and they took a board and carved the initials 'T. E.' on it and placed it at the head, and the President-elect asked my father to look after the grave for him. Some say there never was a marker there but I know there was. They placed it there that day, and it remained there for several years, as I saw it myself many times. They talked a long time, my father telling him that he hoped he would get along better in the future than he had in the past and that he would be able to keep his head above water (having reference to the story that Lincoln was almost drowned when a child, being rescued by his cousin.) When father told us what he had said, my mother was scandalized that he should have talked to a President elect in such a manner and took him to task for it. Even though my father was only a year old than Abe Lincoln, the latter called him "Uncle Ike."

# Graves of Lincolns to Be Properly Marked

**A**FTER more than sixty years of neglect which is a reproach to the people of Illinois and of the United States, a suitable monument is to mark the graves of the father and step-mother of Abraham Lincoln. The Lions Clubs of Illinois are doing the work. They have ordered a stone, costly enough, but as strikingly simple as Abraham Lincoln himself could have wished, and it will be placed above their last resting place near Janesville, Ill.

The inscription is as simple and straightforward as the lives of the Lincolns themselves. It says:

## LINCOLN

Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln  
1778-1851 1788-1869

Father and stepmother of our  
martyred president.

Their humble but worthy home gave  
to the world

## ABRAHAM LINCOLN

At the bottom of the shaft, in small type, are the words, "Erected by the Lions Clubs of the State of Illinois."

Not only has the money been raised by Lions and the monument ordered and plans laid by the Lions for proper ceremonies when it is finally in place, but the whole idea had its origin in the brain of a Lion, District Governor Wayne C. Townley of Bloomington. One of the things for which Lions stand most firmly is love of country and due honor to all who have served the country. So it had only to be brought to the attention of District Governor Townley that the burial place of the Lincolns was neglected. He took instant and characteristic action. When asked how he happened to take up the work of getting proper attention paid to the graves he replied:

"I happened to be delivering an address at Charleston, Ill., on Memorial day, and of course the name of Lincoln was prominent in what I had to say.

"After the meeting was over some one came to me and asked if I knew that the father and step-mother of Abraham Lincoln lay buried only about twenty miles from that spot, and that their graves were neglected by the state, and one of them with not even a headstone.

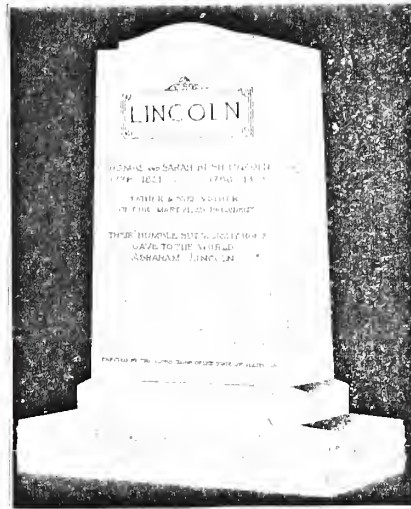
"I certainly had not known any

such thing before. I could not go that day to see for myself the condition of the graves, but as soon as I could get away from Bloomington again I made a special trip to Janesville and visited the old cemetery.

"Over one grave was a stone, mutilated and chipped by relic hunters until it was in a distress-

Lincolns. Other states even offered to put up a memorial, but the trustees of the cemetery refused their offers.

Now the Lions of Illinois have erased the stain from the name of the state. The stone will be formally dedicated early in the spring.



*Stone which Lions Clubs of Illinois are erecting over graves of Lincoln's parents.*

ing condition. Over the other grave there was not even a headstone—nothing but a rough rock at the foot—evidently brought from some field near by.

"Lincoln himself went to visit the grave of his father a few days before he went to Washington to become president, and he then instructed Dennis Hanks to 'see that the place was cared for.' While Mrs. Lincoln lived the grave of the father was kept in good condition; but after her death the place was gradually neglected.

"When I looked on those neglected graves, and thought what a man that couple had trained and given to the world, I determined to ask the Lions to give them the honor which is their due. And the Lions have done it."

It took the teamwork of the Lions to get it done. A number of patriotic Americans living near by have for years tried to get action by the state, but politics always blocked them. Mrs. Susan B. Baker especially worked hard for suitable recognition of the

LIONS CLUB MAGAZINE  
FEBRUARY, 1927



# WHEN LINCOLN VISITED THE HOME FOLKS

BY FRED L. HOLMES

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Madison, Wis., 21 February, 1929.

Mr. Adolf Sumerlin, Lerna, Ill.--You are granted permission to reprint my article from the February issue of LaFollette's on "Lincoln Visits the Home Folks."

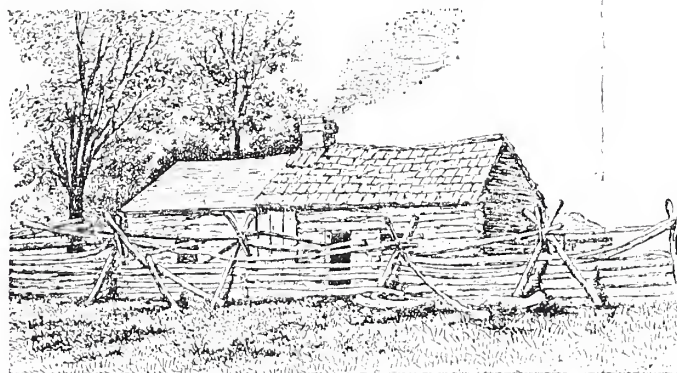
My reason for copyrighting the article was because it is to appear in a book I have just finished on Lincoln. But the people of your vicinity are engaged in a Lincoln project which has my heart and soul endorsement. For this reason I am releasing the article to you for immediate publication.

My tour to Lerna and the Shiloh Church vicinity will never be forgotten and if others can be inspired by my article to go there for a visit my efforts in writing it will be more than compensated.

Please keep me in touch with any new developments.

Very truly yours,

FRED L. HOLMES, Managing Editor.



The Log Cabin in which Thomas Lincoln died in 1851.

During the fall of 1928, accompanied by Henry A. Huber, lieutenant-governor of Wisconsin, Mr. Holmes made an automobile trip through the Lincoln country visiting places associated with the Illinois life of the great president. Among the places that impressed both were the rural homescenes of Mr. Lincoln's father and stepmother, south of Mattoon, near Lerna Illinois. After Mr. Lincoln was elected president, when office-seekers and the approaching problems beset him at every turn, he broke away and traveled unattended back to the old farm to spend a few days with his stepmother. The information gathered in the community, much of it never before published, makes Mr. Holmes' article a contribution to Lincoln literature—  
EDITOR'S NOTE.

Twelve miles south of Mattoon, Illinois, in the old Gerdon Cemetery near Shiloh church, are the graves of a meek man and woman—a father and stepmother. Over them rises an unpolished granite block which bears the single eulogy:—

"Their humble but worthy home gave Abraham Lincoln to the world."

From a pilgrimage there I believe one may learn more of the innate kindness of their son than could be gained by hours of reading. To this spot came Abraham Lincoln on his last trip into the country before he journeyed to Washington to take the oath as President of the United States. His father had been dead ten years, but Sarah Bush Lincoln at 73 welcomed her stepchild to her two-room log cabin with a love known only to mothers. When he went away he was never to return.

## Remembered His Stepmother.

The tour of this secluded country teems with an absorbing interest to one familiar with Lincoln's life. His thoughts were here more often than his feet trod their fields. Here are glimpsed vistas little known to historians. The zealous protection Lin-

coln gave to his stepmother naturally enhances one's admiration of him illuminating the weed-fringed roadside which passes her now obliterated home. Rise as he did in power and influence to a pinnacle the home folk could not comprehend, he nevertheless did not forget them. Even in the hour of his greatest success his thoughts turned to the foster mother with white hair in the log cabin near Farmington. It was the little things he did that helps to make his memory imperishable.

This last visit was the culmination of a number of efforts which Abraham Lincoln had made to improve the circumstances of his family. They were a restless people, hoping with each turn of circumstance would come ease and prosperity. Within a year after their first Illinois settlement, near Decatur, in 1830, they had moved sixty miles away into Coles county, to a farm near the present village of Lerna, south of Mattoon and Charleston. It was to this homestead that Lincoln returned following his flatboat trip to New Orleans in 1831 before going to New Salem to become a store clerk. In a few years another move was made within the community and finally to the acres near Farmington, a crossroads hamlet where his father lived until his death in 1851.

## Never Forgot Old Folk.

Many were the times when the atten-

tions of Mr. Lincoln were turned to a remembrance of home folk. On one occasion William G. Greene, his New Salem chum, was going to Kentucky for a visit, and Lincoln induced him to carry a letter to his parents, suggesting that it would be a good place to spend the night.

"You're welcome, heartily welcome," said Thomas Lincoln, when told he came bearing a message from his son. "I s'pose Abe's still a foolin' hisself with eddication. I tried to stop it, but he's got that fool idee in his head an' it can't be got out. Now I hain't got no eddication, but I get along better than ef I had."

The family gave him many worries. When John D. Johnston, his stepbrother, who lived with the old folks, attempted to borrow \$80, Lincoln advised him to go to work and that for every dollar he earned Lincoln would give him another dollar. He attempted to stir him to ambition.

"Let father and the boys take charge of things at home," he wrote Johnston. "Prepare for a crop and make a crop; and you go to work for the best money wages—or in discharge of any debt—that you can get; and to secure you a fair reward for your labor, I now promise you that for every dollar you will, between this and the first of next May, get for your labor, either as money or discharging your own indebtedness, I will give you one other dollar. By this, if you hire yourself at ten dollars a month, from me you will get ten more, making twenty dollars a month for your work. In this I do not mean you should go off to St. Louis, or the lead mines, or



the gold mines of California, but I mean for you to go at it for the best wages you can get close to home in Coles county."

### Father Asked For Little

No such appeals to ambition were made to his father. Age seems to have made him more contented. Thomas Lincoln worked as a farmer and carpenter to the end. Recollections among the people on Goose Neck Prairie, where he lived the last twenty years of his life, speak of him as a "good neighbor." He was not brilliant, but he was kind; he was not ambitious, neither was he lazy. Physically short and stout, he was always in good health until his last illness, which came upon him late in the fall of 1850. Word was sent to his son advising him of his serious condition. A few days before his death there came a letter from Abraham so filed with religious piety that one who could call him an atheist must convict him of being a hypocrite:

"I sincerely hope father may recover his health; but at all events tell him to remember to call upon and confide in our great and merciful Maker, who will not turn away from him in any extremity. He notes the fall of the sparrow, and numbers of the hairs of our heads, and he will not forget the dying man who puts his trust in Him. Say to him that, if we could meet now, it is doubtful whether it would be more painful than pleasant but if it is his lot to go now, he will soon have a joyful meeting with loved ones gone before, and where the rest of us, through the mercy of God, hope ere long to join them."

### Saves the Home Property

In the year that followed his father's death it was the courage of Abraham Lincoln that saved his stepmother's property from being dissipated. Her son wanted to sell the farm, including her dower interests. He dreamed of moving to Missouri and with the money from the sale begin all over. Mr. Lincoln wrote from Springfield, November 25, 1851, to John D. Johnston:

"She now has the use of the whole east forty, as long as she lives, and if it be sold she is entitled to the interest on all of the money it brings as long as she lives; but you propose to sell it for three hundred dollars, take one hundred away with you, and leave her two hundred at 8 per cent, making her the enormous sum of sixteen dollars a year! Now if you are satisfied in treating her that way, I am not. It is true that you are to have the forty for two hundred dollars at Mother's death; but you are not to have it before. I am confident that the land can be made to produce for mother at least thirty dollars a year, and I cannot, to oblige any living person consent that she shall be put on an allowance of sixteen dollars a year."

Such a determined attitude held the Lincoln farm intact. It was to this place that the president-elect later came on his final visit. All witnesses of the event are now gone, but trees and shrubs cared for by the family speak in noble eloquence of home frugality. If you really want to know the simplicity of Abraham Lincoln, if you desire to mingle with the people he understood and loved, then visit as I did, the Shiloh country churchyard two miles from the old home, on a bright Sunday afternoon. There in the shadows of the red brick church gather the gentle country folk to speak in tenderness and love of their departed. There they stand on ground where Lincoln stood. There they linger about the tombs with a freedom of inti-

mate companionship. There in a prairie of fields and stream and pasture hillside will find a contentment, the quiet of sublime understanding. Somehow one feels as he walks among them that he is very near to the heart of Lincoln and his people.

### Way Should be Marked

Even with the improvements of rural highways it is still a difficult undertaking to reach the country. I lost the way several times. Attempts to mark the route in recent years have not been entirely successful. There are too many side roads to lead one astray. It was not until the spring of 1923, at the suggestion of Wayne Townley of Bloomington, district governor of the Lions Club, that the trail was outlined and a year later through the combined efforts of Lions Clubs all over Illinois that a monument was raised over the graves. There was a monument on the lot erected many years before by Robert T. Lincoln, a grandson, but souvenir hunters had chipped away its corners and a part of the surface. This has been moved to the entrance of the cemetery.

In co-operation with state highway officials, it is planned ultimately to develop the Thomas Lincoln Trail, marked by an orange circle in which are written "T. L. T.," so that starting at Mattoon it will pass by Buck's Grove, where Thomas Lincoln in 1831 built his first log cabin in Pleasant Grove township; through the village of Lerna, where one-half mile south are the foundation rocks on which he built his second log cabin in 1834; along the road by Shiloh Cemetery, where Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Lincoln are buried, and two miles further southeastward to the Lincoln farm, where the father and stepmother of the president died. The three Lincoln cabins in the neighborhood disappeared long ago. Nature has again draped these sacred sites with vine and grass; their history is as a tale.

### Home Site Is Marked

Traveling eastward from the cemetery one mile, the road forks left and right into what is known as the Charleston-Greenup highway, over which Lincoln traveled. The left turn northward takes one to Charleston through Farmington. To the east, along the road leading south less than a mile is the Thomas Lincoln homestead of one hundred twenty acres.—a rectangular field eighty rods north and south and two hundred forty rods east and west. The D. A. R. of Charleston has placed a descriptive tablet beside the highway near the farm's northwestern corner.

Soon I began to observe homely things—fences and crops that must give satisfaction to a landowner. The country was rolling. We walked up the long southern margin of the field abarmed with lands open and productive. There was a music in earth and sunshine that was soft and insistent. I recall that the air had its own penetrating odor, perfumes of grass and corn. In the ramble we passed a deserted farm home, brown and weather beaten.

Two ravines cross the Lincoln acres, making a pleasing shift in the landscape. There are few trees. Shrubs grow around the cabin site from which we viewed level vistas under cultivation. The blue skyline of the afternoon melts into a yellow horizon—a typical agricultural landscape. Examining the ground we found earth-scarred markings of the cabin foundation nearly twelve rods back from the roadway. The soil pressed mellow underfoot which I thought was significant of its

fecundity. Maybe I am overglorifying this country, but I liked its lands, its verdant pastures and its growing crops.

"Who owns the Lincoln farm now?" I inquired of a neighbor.

"There are three owners," he responded. I sensed in his exultant tone that he was one of them.

### To Restore Log Cabin

"The Chamber of Commerce of Charleston and Mattoon has purchased one parcel; William Phipps a second, but the eighteen acres where the log cabin stood is owned by John Martin of Sullivan, Illinois. The Shiloh Lincoln Memorial Club of Janesville has plans for purchase of the Martin property with a view of transforming it into a public park in which on the original spot will be erected a replica of the Lincoln log cabin as it appeared when Mr. Lincoln came for his visit."

As I toured along these roads away from the noise of railroad and city, I thought of the Lincoln family and their deserted farms and I pitied them with a sad heart. They had claimed the land, toiled hard for a living, but how little of their story is remembered! There is not even a picture of Thomas Lincoln, and only one of the step-mother.

One other scene is etched like a pageant of triumph in the story of this common country-side. Can you see the thoughtful, melancholy Lincoln, before he takes the helm of government, as he comes here on a visit? Can you picture the words of comfort, the inward, downcast feelings that must have swept him as he measured their uneventful lives? Maybe it was these scenes that later rose in memory to give courage to a harassed soul.

### Joe Cannon Met Lincoln

Anyway, as the time for his departure for Washington neared, Abraham Lincoln became more anxious to see his stepmother and her daughters. Accompanied part of the way by Henry C. Whitney, an old-time circuit-riding friend, they took the train at Springfield on February 1st, for Tolono where a change was made to reach Mattoon and another change for Charleston. Short as the distance now seems, it was a trip that then required an entire day. Throughout the route, the people were anxious to greet the president-elect and he had little time to himself. One man he met long remembered the occasion. Joseph G. Cannon, many years after speaker of the House of Representatives then a young lawyer, has recalled the incident with great satisfaction.

"Already there were threats of war, of secession and of assassination, but he was the same cordial, unassuming, seemingly common-place man," reminisced Mr. Cannon. "I was on the train going from Tuscola to Mattoon and met Mr. Lincoln, who was also on that train, going to Charleston to pay a visit to his stepmother, who lived at Farmington, a few miles from that place. He was of course the most distinguished man on the train and was constantly surrounded by people who wanted to shake hands and have a word with him. But he was just one of the passengers in the day coach. He had no bodyguard. I exchanged only a few words with him because everyone was so anxious to meet him."

The train missed connections at Mattoon and Lincoln had to take a freight to Charleston, where he was to spend the night at the home of Colonel A. H. Chapman, who was married to a daughter of Dennis Hanks, a companion from boyhood. Awaiting the train at the

Charleston depot was James A. Connolly, for many years after a practicing lawyer at Springfield.

"When the train finally drew in and stopped, the locomotive was almost opposite the station, and the caboose, or car that carried the passengers, was some distance down the track," related Mr. Connolly years after. "Presently looking in that direction we saw a tall man, wearing a coat or shawl, descend from the steps of the car and patiently make his way through the slush and ice beside the track as far as the station platform. I think he wore a plug hat. I remember I was surprised that a railroad company, with so distinguished a passenger aboard its train as the president-elect of the United States, did not manifest interest enough in his dignity and comfort to deliver him at the station instead of dropping him off in the mud several hundred feet down the track."

### Carried a Carpet Bag.

After shaking hands with a few friends Mr. Lincoln, carrying his well-worn carpet bag, left for the home of Colonel Chapman, where many people gathered that evening at an informal reception. The next morning Lincoln and Chapman got into a two-horse buggy and drove to Farmington.

There is no one to tell us of the home reception that afternoon in February when Abraham Lincoln came back to his people. From the doorway of her earth-colored log cabin, whose timbers bore the distinct mark of the adz, the anxious mother watched him arrive. In the gladness of the meeting there must have been tears. As inevitable tragic touch is always present in such a reunion, shadowed by the memories of those who have departed. They talked into the night of things known only to the fireside. Two days or more were spent among the neighbors. Once he drove to the home of Isaac Rodgers and asked him to care for his father's grave during his absence. For more than sixty years members of the Rodgers family discharged this sacred duty until in 1923 the Shiloh Lincoln Memorial Club of Janesville was organized to perpetuate the trust.

"Lincoln came to my father's house in February, 1861, before he was inaugurated, and asked my father to go with him to his father's grave," recalled Mrs. Susan D. Baker, Mr. Rodgers' daughter, in a memoir prepared shortly before his death in 1927.

"They went over to the old cemetery where Lincoln stood by his father's grave and wept, saying that the country was approaching a critical time and that he never expected to get back here again and he never did."

### Three Friends Remember

Next day Mrs. Lincoln returned with him to Charleston. On the way they stopped at a little, one-story frame house in Farmington for dinner. As the years rolled by this building has become a mecca, recently marked by a table. It appears much as it did in Lincoln's day.

"There are three men still living who as children in school saw Mr. Lincoln that day, R. B. Rodgers, Janesville, the secretary of the Shiloh Lincoln Memorial Club, told me. "They are: Thomas Alison, Charleston; John Best, Janesville, and George Balch, Lerna, all living in the immediate neighborhood."

Not until I had a picture of these three friends of Lincoln taken before the Farmington wayside place was I content. The building, with its narrow clapboards, stubby chimney protruding above the ridgeboard, low roof, and narrow porch seemed so fitting a landmark to Lincoln's simplicity that I felt happy to have traveled that way. The nearly seventy years have not dimmed the precious recollections of these three men, who as school boys shook hands with the president-elect and heard his few words of encouragement before he left for Charleston. There he parted with his stepmother, who said that something told her they would never again meet.

"God bless you and keep you, my good son," she sobbed. But Lincoln's eyes were blurred with tears and his voice too choked to give further answer. He disappeared down the street.

Both were to face an unvisioned Gethsemane. She to be persecuted in war hatred by men who were to fail in their wicked designs to convict her of a thievery which might dishonor her son. He had so many worries that he never learned of hers. Four years went by and then neighbors came and told her that he had gone the way to martyrdom.



# STATE TO PURCHASE THE LINCOLN FARM

In connection with the trip of R. L. King and Benjamin Weir, together with representatives from the Mattoon Association of Commerce, to Springfield on Wednesday, it was ascertained that the State of Illinois will go right through with the purchase of the west 68 acres of the Lincoln farm south of Farmington. This will be set aside for park purposes.

This 68 acres is being turned over to the state at the average price of \$137.50 per acre. The 18 acres just east and adjoining the 68 acres is held by a Sullivan, Illinois, man who is asking a price considerably in excess of what the authorities feel it is worth and of what they are willing to pay. They are, therefore, going to institute condemnation proceedings and it is expected that the price fixed by the court will figure somewhere between \$100 per acre and the \$137.50 at which the remainder of the land was secured, as it is considered that the \$137.50 figure is somewhat in excess of the present actual value per acre.

This insures the early consummation of an idea which was started several years ago by members of the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The ladies of this organization of Charleston and in Mattoon and members of the Charleston and Mattoon Chambers of Commerce have devoted a great deal of time and energy to boosting this matter since then. Governor Emmerson, Senator Hamilton, the representatives from this district and other state officials have given most cordial co-operation and assistance and are due the appreciation of all who are interested in perpetuating the memory of the great martyred President and of his parents.

It is understood the money is already available for the purchase of this land and the entire deal should be completed within a very short time now.

CHARLESTON ILL. COURIER  
THURSDAY, MAY 16, 1929.



# STATE TO TAKE OVER LINCOLN LAND AT ONCE

The State of Illinois is to take over immediately the two thirty-four acre tracts of the original Lincoln farm, eight miles south of here. This was indicated on Wednesday by the receipt of a letter from H. H. Cleaveland, Director of Public Works and Buildings. It is not known just what progress is being made with the condemnation suit against John D. Martin for the remaining eighteen acres which the State desires to fill out their plans for the Lincoln Park Farm at Farmington. Recent word from Mr. Cleaveland, however, is that the Attorney General's office has been asked to institute such suit.

It will be remembered that some time ago the Sally Lincoln chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, started the agitation for the purchase and setting apart of the old Lincoln farm for state park purposes. The D. A. R.'s of Charleston and Mattoon have since worked for this consummation. A little over a year ago the Charleston Chamber of Commerce and the Mattoon Association of Commerce together purchased the west thirty-four acres of this tract when it was offered under an administrator's sale, with the sole idea of holding this for the state if the administration could be persuaded to establish the park there.

Since then representatives of the two civic organizations have made several trips to Springfield to interview officials there in regard to it. Governor Emmerson, who is a great admirer of Lincoln, was greatly interested and has been most cordial in his cooperation toward working this whole matter out. Finally when it became clear that the eighteen acres owned by Mr. Martin, of Sullivan, could not be gotten at what they considered a reasonable price, he indicated his willingness for the state to go into condemnation proceedings to secure it. In this the other officials concurred and, as indicated, the department having that in charge has already asked the Attorney General to start the suit.

Representatives of the Chamber of Commerce here, working in unison with the Mattoon organization, secured an option from Mr. and Mrs. William T. Phipps for the thirty-four acres lying just east of the thirty-four acres which these civic organizations had purchased under which these people agreed to sell to the state. This disposed of the question of the sixty-eight acres, which will be turned to the state. The eighteen acres owned by Martin will make the state holdings for the park eighty-six acres, when and if the condemnation suit is successfully concluded.

While it is not expected that the state will do any work toward beautifying the land for park purposes this year it is probable that plans will be made and work started to that end sometime during next year. When it is remembered that Old Salem State Park was established with only fifty-five acres and that it is now only seventy-four acres in extent it will be realized that the eighty-six acres will provide for quite an extensive park with great possibilities in its developing and beautifying. And with the construction of the proposed Lincoln National Memorial Highway right past the park it will open it up in a fine way. The park, the Shiloh cemetery, the site of the Lincoln-Douglas debate here, and the many associations of Lincoln with Charleston and with the Farmington vicinity will no doubt lead to many, many people visiting these shrines in Coles county.

The letter definitely stating that the matter would be closed promptly was received Wednesday by Benjamin Weir, who has been acting as trustee for the Charleston Chamber of Commerce and the Mattoon Association of Commerce in this Lincoln Farm matter. It was as follows:

"Judge G. E. Nelson, of the Attorney General's office, and Mr. W. H. McLain of the State Auditor's office, will be in Charleston on Friday morning next, June 28th, prepared to close the purchase of the two pieces of real estate of thirty-four acres in Coles county.

"Will you meet these gentlemen at the Court House then, having with you Mrs. Weir and Mr. and Mrs. William T. Phipps, prepared to execute the necessary deeds of transfer."

CHARLESTON (ILL.) COURIER  
THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 1929.

## WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT LINCOLN?

In connection with the purchase of the Lincoln farm for park purposes by the state and plans for presenting data on Lincoln history in connection with the Lincoln Memorial Highway the Charleston Chamber of Commerce is anxious to get every bit of actual information possible on Lincoln incidents and Lincoln history along any part of the proposed route of the Lincoln Memorial Highway. Anyone who is familiar with such history or incidents or knows others who are would assist greatly by notifying the Chamber of Commerce office.

Efforts are being made in each community traversed to get such information. It would seem that in this section there would be a number in position to give considerable information along this line and especially regarding events which happened in or around Charleston, Farmington or Coles County. Such as stated, are urged to advise the Chamber of Commerce office.

CHARLESTON (ILL.) COURIER  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 1929.

## EXPLOITING THE LINCOLN FARM?

After the purchase of one of the Lincoln farms for about \$37 an acre, a golf club committee is now trying to peddle it to the state for \$137 an acre.

This is the true spirit of patriotic profiteering.

If the state is to be grafted, then it is high time the scheme is dropped.

The idea of a golf club going in to investigate the simplicity of Abe Lincoln is preposterous and ridiculous. The matter at issue must be purely graft. It could hardly be anything else when the figures of sale and purchase are studied.

To hell with such callow methods of milking the state treasury.

CHARLESTON (ILL.) NEWS  
FRIDAY, MAY 17, 1929.

## The First Monument

*Sam. Balch Sept 13, 1929*

Ottawa, Ill., Sept. 4, 1911.

Give credit to whom credit is due  
I notice in a recent issue of your  
paper an article on "The Grave of  
Lincoln's stepmother," in which  
you state that it is not known how  
the memorial on Thomas Lincoln's  
grave came to be erected. Surely  
you did not make energetic inquiry.

In the year 1876 my father, George  
B. Balch, now deceased, who at that  
time lived in the neighborhood of  
the Gordon cemetery, wrote a poem,  
describing the grave of Lincoln's  
father, which at that time was liter-  
ally true. A copy of that poem was  
sent to Robert T. Lincoln who gave  
\$100 toward the monument. My  
father recited this poem with other  
poems of his, in Mattoon and other  
places a few times for a paid ad-  
mission. A few dollars was sub-  
scribed by the citizens and the  
monument was erected.

As my father's poem was the im-  
mediate cause of the monument be-  
ing erected, George Bradshaw, who  
at that time was an artist in Mat-  
toon, came to my father's home and  
took him to the cemetery, where,  
standing beside the monument, he  
took a picture of my father, of the  
monument and the poem. This  
picture you can find framed in the  
Lincoln memorial at Springfield  
and in the homes of each of the  
Balch children, and also in many of  
the homes of Coles county.

I submit the poem which explains  
itself, and I hope you will print it,  
simply to get the matter right in  
the minds of the young people, as I  
have seen some wild articles before  
in some of the newspapers of Coles  
county on this same subject. I will  
say that very soon all my father's  
poems will be printed in book form  
and a copyright applied for.

The following is the poem, title  
and all. SAM. W. BALCH.

## The Amram of America

(Look in your Bibles and see who Am-  
ram was.)

In a low sweet vale by a murmuring  
rill,

The pioneers ashes are sleeping  
Where the white marble shafts, so lone-  
ly and still,

In silence their vigils are keeping.

On their sad lonely faces are words of  
fame

But none of them speak of his glory,  
When the pioneer died, his age and  
his name—

No monument whispers the story.

No myrtle, nor ivy, nor hyacinth blows  
O'er the lonely place where they laid  
him;

No cedar, no holly, no almond tree grows  
Near the plebian's grave to shade him.

Bright evergreens wave over many a  
grave;

O'er some the sad weeping willows;  
But no willow trees bow nor evergreens  
wave

Where the pioneer sleeps on his pil-  
low.

While some are inhumed with the hon-  
ors of state

And placed beneath temples to moul-  
der,

The grave of the father of Lincoln, the  
Great,

Is known by a hillock and boulder.

Let him take his long sleep and quietly  
rest,

With naught to disturb or awake him;  
When the angels descend to gather the  
blest,

To Abraham's bosom they'll take him.

# LINCOLN SHRINES.

Lerna has the great distinction of being the Gateway to the Lincoln Shrines in this section of Illinois. The tourist in visiting the sites and scenes incident to the travels of Thomas Lincoln and the barefoot boy who drove a team of oxen through the wilds in 1830 and his greater accomplishments years later must necessarily pass through Lerna. Going east from this village one reaches the Shiloh-Gordon cemetery where lie the remains of Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln. Two miles further east is the site of the log cabin in Goose Nest Prairie where both passed away, and still further on to the northeast is McCann's Ford where they crossed on their migration to Illinois.

Journeying north from the Lincoln State Park is the small village of Farmington and there is the unpretentious dwelling in which Abraham Lincoln took his last farewell from Sarah Bush Lincoln a short time before he left Springfield for Washington to be inaugurated president of the United States. Continuing north you traverse the road that Lincoln traveled for many years on his visitations to his parents while attending court in Charleston, and at the fair grounds is a monument marking the place where the debate took place between Lincoln and Douglas in 1858.

One-fourth of a mile south of Lerna is the Walker 40 acres which Thomas Lincoln purchased in 1834 and lived there until he sold it to Alexander Montgomery in May 1837. He moved to the Plumber place and remained there until August 1837 when he erected a pole log cabin near the present site in Goose Nest Prairie. Going west from Lerna about two miles you come to Buck Grove on the Stephenson farm. Here Thomas Lincoln

erected a log cabin in 1831 and lived there until he purchased the Walker tract in May, 1834. Two miles further to the west is Magnet. Just north of this abandoned village is the site of the Hiram Tremble farm, where was located Paradise postoffice in 1829 and where Abraham Lincoln had a wrestling match with one Dan Needham in July 1831, and a short distance southwest from Magnet is the site of the home of John Sawyer, one of the early pioneers, and there Sarah Bush Lincoln, after the death of her husband, spent several years taking care of the Sawyer children, whose mother had died. Continuing the itinerary northwest is the site of Old Richmond, the new home of the Paradise postoffice where the Lincolns received their mail. Continuing the journey through Wabash Point and a mile to the north is the site of Elisha Linder's home, which was frequently visited by both Thomas and Abraham Lincoln.

Eight miles to the northwest is the beautiful city of Mattoon and here are three Lincoln shrines. The site of the Old Pennsylvania House, where Lincoln was a guest in 1858, the night previous to the Lincoln-Douglas debate; the old state road south of Mattoon which he traveled on his way to Charleston to keep his appointment, and the site at the junction of the Big Four and the I. C. where he became a passenger on a freight train to Charleston to pay a last visit to his stepmother before he became president.

It needs but a glance to be convinced that Lerna holds the key to the Lincoln Shrines in this section, although the cause for the Shrines were created many years before this village made its appearance on the recognized maps, but her citizens feel justly proud of the distinction that has been given her by the lovers of Lincoln lore.



## To Take Over Lincoln Tract.

1930

Charleston, Ill., Dec. 18.—The state of Illinois late on Wednesday afternoon made final arrangements for taking over an eighteen acre tract of land south of this city in the Farmington community on which was located the old Lincoln homestead.

The state now owns there a total of eighty-six acres, which will be used for park purposes.

Thomas Lincoln, father of Abraham Lincoln, lived on this farm for several years, or until his death. Sarah Bush Lincoln continued to live there the remainder of her life.

CHARLESTON ILL. COURIER  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1930.

# STATE HAS TAKEN OVER THE LINCOLN HOMESTEAD LAND

The State of Illinois has finally taken over the eighteen acres of land south of Charleston, near Farmington, on which the original Lincoln home stood. This transaction was finally closed up late Wednesday afternoon. It gives the state ownership of eighty-six acres of the Lincoln Homestead, on which Thomas Lincoln maintained his home for so many years and on which he died; then Sarah Bush Lincoln, Lincoln's honored step-mother, retained her home on the land during her lifetime.

The state has bought this tract with the idea of making a state park of it, and will perhaps later develop it somewhat as they have developed the Old Salem State Park on the site occupied by Old Salem when Abraham Lincoln lived there.

This eighteen acre tract was acquired by John D. Martin by inheritance several years ago.

The Old Homestead has been the subject of special interest by the Daughters of the American Revolution here for a number of years and they have strongly encouraged the idea of making it a great state park in memory of the parents of Abraham Lincoln. This ambition was also held by a large number of other people in this vicinity who held great admiration for the Great Emancipator, who had such close association with this homestead because of visits there during its occupancy by Thomas Lincoln and of Sarah Bush Lincoln, who lived there for so many years and who lie buried in the Gordon-Shiloh cemetery nearby.

Several years ago in the settling of the estate of Squire Hall thirty-four acres were offered at public auction and under a trust agreement the Charleston Chamber of Commerce and the Mattoon Association of Commerce bought it in. Then thirty-four acres owned by Mr. and Mrs. William T. Phipps was acquired for the state—the transaction being engineered by the trustee under the Chamber of Commerce agreement and both tracts being turned over to the state about two years ago.

At the same time offers were made to Martin for his eighteen acres—the tract on which the cabin actually stood—but his price was larger than the state would consider. After letting the matter rock for a number of months the state finally instituted condemnation suit for the land and the jury allowed Martin \$4250 for the tract. This was much smaller than Martin's asking but was higher than the state authorities were willing to pay. So under special negotiations between parties interested locally and the state a compromise offer was made Martin, which he finally accepted. The figure agreed upon was \$3600, and that was the consideration paid by the state in the deal on Wednesday. In this deal A. C. Anderson represented Martin and Harlington Wood, of Springfield, connected with the Attorney General's office, represented the state.

This places the property under the direct ownership of the state and it is being held for park purposes. No definite plans have been made to start work on the improvements to be made, but it is thought that the consummation of the purchase is an assurance that the state will move at a not far distant date, and that final plans will provide for a very effective and attractive treatment of the tract which will make it one of the outstanding parks of the state.

Such a Lincoln Park in this section will no doubt have a splendid effect upon progress toward the great interstate highway planned in memory of Lincoln—the Lincoln National Memorial Highway, to run from Lincoln's birthplace near Hodgenville, Kentucky, through Indiana, to his burial place and on through the territory with which he was so closely associated during his early manhood, and to Beardstown, where he defended Duff Armstrong against a murder charge.

The special commission selected by Governor Emmerson, composed of Logan Hay, Paul Angle, Judge Henry Horner, Dr. Otto Schmidt and Oliver Barret, is making a very thorough study of the route for this proposed highway through Illinois and it is thought will be in position to report their findings within the next two or three months. When this report is made it is expected that it will be adopted by the State of Illinois as the routing which it will favor for this great national highway.



# THE LINCOLN GRAVES— SHILOH-GORDON CEMETERY

Arcola, Ill., Feb. 12.—F. F. Collins, editor of the Arcola Record-Herald, recently visited the Lincoln graves in Shiloh cemetery and on his return home, wrote the following:

Several thousand registered before we did. The register is in the little brick Presbyterian church at Shiloh cemetery, four miles east of Lerna and about fifteen miles southeast of Mattoon, where are deposited the mortal remains of Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Lincoln, father and step-mother of Abraham Lincoln, our martyred president. Thursday we celebrate Lincoln's birthday and we can think of no more appropriate thing for the people of this neighborhood to do than to make a pilgrimage to this cemetery on that day.

The original Lincoln monument, substantial old style stone with its shaft rising to a height of about 12 feet, has been moved from the Lincoln graves and placed at the cemetery entrance and a new modern style stone has been placed at the grave by the Lions clubs of Illinois. On the stone is this inscription:

"Father and step-mother of our martyred president. Their humble but worthy home gave the world Abraham Lincoln."

Below this is a line which heralds the fact that the Lions clubs of Illinois did the job.

The fine old stone which has been moved from the grave and placed at the cemetery entrance has an iron fence around it to protect it from curious seekers who have chiseled off bits of the stone for souvenirs.

Mrs. Reed, an aged resident of that neighborhood, told me that people have come there with hammers and chisels and chipped off bits of the monument in broad daylight.

The stone gives the information that Thomas Lincoln was born in 1778 and died in 1851, while Sarah Bush Lincoln, the martyred president's step-mother, was born in 1786 and died in 1869. The graves were first marked by a natural boulder but in 1880 the fine old monument was purchased and placed over the graves. This was made possible by contributions of Coles county people and a subscription of \$100 by Robert T. Lincoln, a grandson. At the time the monument was put up there was a public gathering and a poem which George Balch of that neighborhood had written in 1876 was read, the first verse of which ran:

In a low sweet vale, by a murmuring rill  
The pioneers ashes are sleeping  
Where the white marble slabs so lovely  
and still

In silence their vigils are keeping.

This stone now stands ninety feet northeast of the grave which is marked by the Lions Club stone—a modern block monument about 4x7 feet in dimensions—so modern in fact that one cannot help but wish that the fine old monument which was moved away had been left as a marker for the graves these pioneers and perhaps an iron fence erected to keep curious seekers at safe distance.

Shiloh is one of the oldest cemeteries in this section, but is well kept and is still the burying ground of that community. It is well attended, grass care-

fully mowed and all stones erect—none of the ancient ones having been allowed to fall down and remain flat or at odd angles as is so often noticeable in old cemeteries.

I wandered among the grave stones, the oldest one which I noticed being that of Michael Taylor who died June 5, 1838—almost a century ago. Two graves are marked by natural rocks now wasting through the ravages of time, but no chiseling on these establish the antiquity of the graves which they mark. On some of the older stones odd bits of sentiment appear. For example;

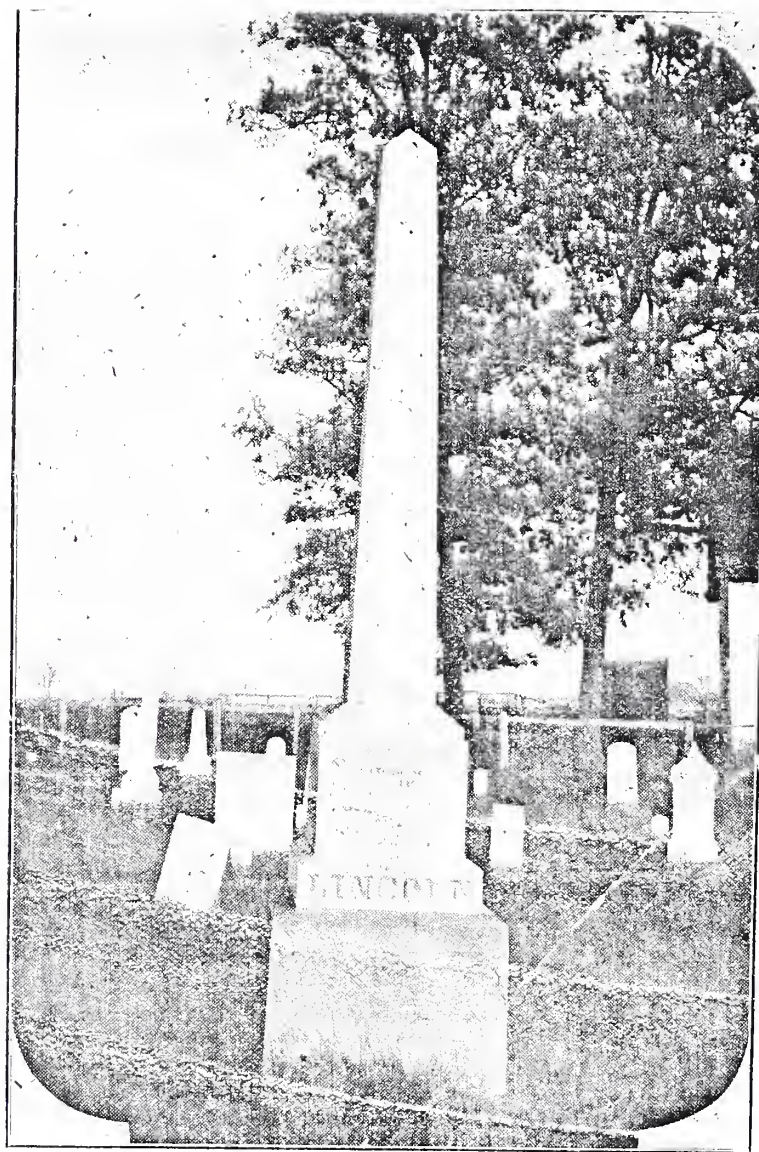
Go home my friend and dry your tears.  
I will arise when Christ appears!"

And then this one:  
Grieve not, grieve not, my sweet mama  
Do not weep for me  
For I am safe in Heaven now

From sin and sorrow free.  
True, these are not as unusual as inscriptions to be found in old cemeteries of New England or the old cemetery at Alexandria near Washington, D. C., where George Washington attended church. Here I saw stones which proclaimed the line of the business or trade which the deceased followed. For example, "John Smith, a tanner, who departed in 1792"; or "John Smith, a brewer, honest and good to his fellow men."

At Wallingford, Conn., I visited a cemetery which occupies the center block of town. Where most county seat towns have their court houses, this town has its old cemetery with prosperous looking business houses on all four sides, facing the resting place of their dead—but this has nothing to do with Shiloh.

Here at Shiloh are the graves of the Halls, the Gordons, the Todds, the Snodgrasses and the Phippses, all pioneers of that section. Good oil roads leads to Shiloh but if you want to see a bit of rough rugged country turn north at the first road east of the cemetery and wander about the side roads where you'll find steep woody hills, deep gulley, rail fences and an occasional log cabin.



THOMAS LINCOLN'S GRAVE IN ILLINOIS.



## LINCOLN SHRINES-- WABASH POINT

Wednesday evening, February 11, at the M. E. church, Clarence W. Bell, Mattoon, in the course of his remarks on Lincoln Shrines in Wabash Point stated: That he was a fourth cousin of Sarah Bush Lincoln step-mother of Abraham Lincoln, and also a descendant of Abraham Lincoln, chose as his topic, "Lincoln and Paradise." Inner secrets of the life of members of the Lincoln family from the time they were first known in Kentucky until they settled in Shiloh, Coles county, were told of in the talk by Mr. Bell.

According to Mr. Bell, there are five shrines near Mattoon which are soon to be improved, having been definitely established as actual historical places by affidavits filed at Springfield with the Abraham Lincoln Association.

One of the main places to be remained, Mr. Bell said, and established as a shrine, is the John Sawyer residence, on the Magnet road about a half mile south of the Ed Arteburn farm residence. On that spot John Sawyer of Kentucky settled, and it was there that Sarah Bush Lincoln lived for two years and cared for Mr. Sawyer's children who had been left motherless.

Another one of the shrines is a spot just a short distance north of the Sawyer residence, known as the Hiram Tremble house, where the post office of old Paradise was established. About a mile west of the Little Wabash school is the old Langston relay station, where Abraham Lincoln ate a meal during his days in Paradise. The other important place is the Elisha Linder residence location, a short distance north of the relay station. Lincoln often visited at the Linder residence. The ruins of this dwelling

still remain. Lincoln is said to have patterned his Springfield home from the Linder residence.

The other shrine to be reclaimed said Mr. Bell, is the location of the Lincoln cabin, near Buck's Grove.

Mr. Bell will personally pay for the improvement of the Linder residence, which work will begin soon. The work on the other shrines will probably be financed by the other distant relatives of Lincoln. The work has progressed to a degree that pictures showing how the shrines will look completed have been made, Mr. Bell stated.

One of the most interesting parts of Mr. Bell's historical sketch was telling about Abraham Lincoln as a circuit rider and Usher F. Linder, also a circuit rider, traveling around this part of the state. Usher F. Linder was the first cousin to Elisha Linder, Clarence W. Bell's grandfather. It was from information handled down by Elisha Linder that Mr. Bell knows the intimate life of the Lincolns during their residence in this section.

**S**TATE OF ILLINOIS has purchased Abraham Lincoln's parental homestead—18 acres in the Coles County hills, near Charleston. The tract will be transformed into a memorial park, and the plan calls for maintaining the place as it was when the Emancipator lived there. Young Lincoln spent his formative period—the earliest of what

## MORE LINCOLN MEMORIALS

Carl Sandburg calls "the prairie years"—on that Illinois farm. Encouraged by a sympathetic stepmother, he went to school a little, learned to love books and read all he could borrow for miles around, by firelight after the day's work was done. When 19 years old, he began life on his own resources, running a flatboat down the Mississippi to New Orleans.

Lincoln last visited the Illinois farm as President-elect, early in 1861. Many relatives of his mother live thereabouts to this day, and Illinois lawmakers thought those associations sufficient reasons for preserving the property. Lincoln's home at Springfield is a State museum; his birthplace—a primitive log cabin—is preserved in marble at Hodgenville (Kentucky). A movement is afoot to restore Salem (Illinois), where young Lincoln clerked in a store and courted Ann Rutledge. Evidently there are many who think better of "Lincoln, the man," than does his latest biographer.

SAN ANTONIO TEX. NEWS  
MAR. 9, 1931 M13

## LINCOLN'S HOMESTEAD IS BOUGHT FOR PARK

CHARLESTON, Ill., March 3.—(AP)—The Lincoln family's Illinois homestead will soon become a memorial park.

Purchased by the state, the 18 acres nestles in the Coles county hills, south of Charleston. Here Lincoln came with his father—here he lived. Before leaving for Old Salem—and the white house.

Many relatives of Lincoln's mother—Nancy Hanks—live hereabouts. During the Civil war, the "Copperheads" thrived in the neighborhood.

Lincoln's last visit to his father's homestead was shortly before his first inaugural trip to Washington.

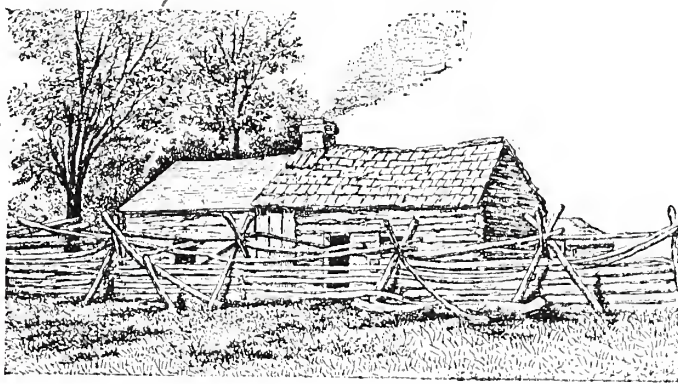
AUSTIN, TEX. STATESMAN  
MAR. 3, 1931 M13



# Will Erect A Replica of The Lincoln Log Cabin

The following article appeared in a recent issue of the Chicago Daily News:

"Completion of the reorganization of the Abraham Lincoln Log Cabin Association, which in the '90s brought Lincoln's Illinois log cabin to Chicago for exhibition and now seeks to restore it on its Coles county site as part of a Lincoln shrine, is announced by its officers.



"The reorganized association has obtained incorporation papers, assembled a staff of workers and elected Mrs. Eleanor Gridley, 5844 Harper avenue, Chicago, president. Mrs. Gridley visited the log cabin, which was near Mattoon, in 1891, sixty years after Abe and his father raised it on Illinois soil. She remained there for several weeks and supervised removal of its timbers to Chicago, where it was to have been rebuilt as part of the world's fair. These plans went awry, though the Lincoln log cabin was exhibited temporarily in the old exposition building on the lake front and was visited by hundreds before it was dismantled because of the razing of the building.

span of horses which took them to the rarely visited homestead.

## Highway to Pass Shrine

"The Lincoln Memorial highway," said Mrs. Gridley, 'from the log cabin where Lincoln was born at Hodgenville, Ky., and following the trail of the Lincolns, will pass by the Coles county shrine.

"A legion of tourist will visit the log cabin. Perhaps it will impress them as in 1891 it impressed the confederate veteran in our party. He removed his hat, pointed to the dilapidated cabin, and after a moment of profound silence said, 'In mute but wondrous eloquence it stands.'"

"As a secondary objective the reorganized association contemplates the establishment of an Abraham Lincoln information center for the preservation and study of Lincoln relics. As a nucleus toward the proposed public collection Mrs. Gridley has in her own possession now the spinning wheel used by Nancy Hanks and the life mask of Abraham Lincoln. These, she has indicated, she will turn over to the information bureau when the time is ripe."

## Sees Dream Near Realization.

"From that time until today Mrs. Gridley has never ceased to plan for the restoration of the historic cabin on its original ground, and at last she feels that her dream is near realization.

"Now that the state of Illinois has acquired the Lincoln farm and an additional tract of land," said Mrs. Gridley, 'the Lincoln state park, with the homestead log cabin rebuilt on the original site, will constitute another Lincoln shrine.'

"Times have changed since June 17, 1891, when Mrs. Gridley, and her companions left the railroad at Mattoon and after some delay hired a vehicle and a

Serra Esch 3-24-31

# LINCOLN'S TWO MOTHERS

Circumstances surrounding the birth and life of Abraham Lincoln introduce an interesting study in biology and in the doctrine of predestination, Dr. O. W. Ferguson, prominent physician in Mattoon for fifty years and life-long resident of Coles county, told Mattoon Kiwanis club at a recent meeting.

"It is commonly known that Thomas Lincoln courted and sought the hand of Sarah before he married Nancy Hanks. Why she refused him in favor of the girl Nancy, who became the mother of Abraham Lincoln, was never definitely known. Sarah married a man named Johnson, Nancy, descendant, it is claimed, from an extraordinary father, died and Sarah Bush Johnson, then a widow, became the second wife of her girlhood sweetheart and stepmother of the prodigy, Abraham Lincoln," he said.

## Formative Influence.

"It is problematical," Dr. Ferguson continued, "whether Sarah Bush could have produced a son such intelligence and yet it was her influence during the formative period of his youth her encouragement in obtaining the books he craved that made him the great man he became.

"Years after Thomas Lincoln died, when Sarah lived in John Sawyer's home in Old Paradise, southwest of Mattoon, a niece, Lydia Sawyer, asked Aunt Sally why she refused to marry Tom Lincoln in the first place. Sarah, Baptist and ardent predestinarian that she was, replied: 'Lydia, what is to be will be. It was God's preordained plan.'"

## Took Two Mothers

Dr. Ferguson is of the opinion that it took two mothers to produce such a man as Abraham Lincoln.

Dr. Ferguson, whose grandfather settled in Muddy Point, Coles county near the Thomas Lincoln home in 1831, stated that Joseph Glenn, grandfather of Senator Otis Glenn, the latter a nephew of Ferguson's settled in this same neighborhood in 1823. Otis Glenn's father, Joseph C. Glenn was born in Muddy Point, now Pleasant Grove township, and it was there that he married Dr. Ferguson's sister, Mary Ferguson.

Dr. Ferguson stated that Otis Glenn is in all probability a descendent of the Lincoln family and that steps are now being taken to trace the relationship which goes back to the marriage of John Glenn to a Lincoln.

In view of the revival of interest in Lincoln history and the discovery that much of the history originating in this county has been untold to the world at large, Dr. Ferguson urged members of the local Kiwanis Club to take steps toward the organization of a Coles county historical society.

June 3-20-31

## Decorate Shiloh Cemetery

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Janesville, Ill., June 1.—Special preparations for the observance of Memorial Day had been made Saturday afternoon by the Lincoln Memorial Club at the Shiloh Gordon cemetery, where Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln lie buried. Rev. Horace Batchelor, pastor of the Mattoon Presbyterian church, was master of ceremonies.

Loren Webb, Mattoon aviator, under the directions of the Mattoon Kiwanis Club, scattered flowers over the cemetery from his plane to open the afternoon's ceremonies. Later, Francis E. Thatcher Jr. of the Kiwanis Club placed wreaths on both Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln's graves. The American Legion firing squad of Mattoon fired a salute and sounded taps, following the Kiwanis Club rites.

At the Shiloh-Gordon church, after the outdoor ceremonies, a Memorial program was carried out, with Edward S. Clayton of Martinsville as the principal speaker. His topic was, "Thomas Lincoln, the Unknown Hero." The rest of the program was: Introductory remarks, Rev. Horace Batchelor; instrumental music, Charleston Trio; piano offertory, Rev. Carl Hearn; prayer, Rev. J. C. Irvine, and benediction, Rev. Hearn.



## PARENTS LIE IN OLD CEMETERY NEAR MATTOON

Monument Marks Graves  
Of Thomas And Sarah

Bush Lincoln,

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The graves of Thomas and Sarah

Bush Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's father and stepmother, are in the old Gordon cemetery near Shiloh church, twelve miles south of Mattoon, and near Janesville, marked by a granite block.

"Their humble but worthy home,"

recites the inscription on this monument raised by the Lions clubs of Illinois, "gave Abraham Lincoln to the world."

Not far from there is Log Cabin state park, on the farm where the elder Lincolns lived. Shortly before he left for Washington, Lincoln came to say goodbye to his stepmother. His father had died in 1850.

Lincoln took the train from Springfield to Tolono, changed there for Charleston and again for Mattoon. Lincoln had to take a freight at Charleston, for the train had missed connections. When the freight stopped, the caboose, where the passengers rode, was some distance down the track, and so the president-elect had to walk through the mud to the station. Next morning, after spending the night at a friend's home, he was driven to his stepmother's home in a buggy.

She feared they would never meet again, and said as he left, "God bless

you and keep you, my son." They parted with tears in their eyes. A few years later neighbors brought to Mrs. Lincoln the news of Abraham's death.

# GRANDMA ADAGE IS DISPROVED BY SAN DIEGO CHILD

There's an old saying, "The child was spoiled by too much grandma."

Joan Marylan Beal, three-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Beal, 4710 Hawley blvd., has four grandmas who declare emphatically that "Joan Marylan is adorable and one of the best babies we ever saw."

The inquiring reporter asked neighbors and friends of the Beals about little Joan Marylan. All said "She's a wonderful baby and not one bit spoiled."

Recalling how his two grandmas used to "spoil" him, much to the exasperation of his own mother, the reporter pressed a great-grandma further. The reporter was skept-

tical and asked, "Do you grandmas pet her a lot?"

"Sure we do," answered Mrs. Kate E. Bacon; "she is so dear we could not help doing that every time we see the baby. And she's wonderfully well behaved. I am sure that in this case four grandmas are not too many for Joan, as she is just naturally sweet. We never interfere with the mother in managing the baby, but she sure loves her gran'mas."

"In his visit with Mrs. Bacon, the reporter discovered some interesting history about her father, T. E. Balch, now dead, who, as a bare-foot boy in a country school, rode in a sulky with Mr. Lincoln to point out to the future president the grave of his father, Thomas Lincoln.

"It was one of father's happy memories," said Mrs. Bacon. "One day a tall gangling man stopped at the little schoolhouse in Coles county, Ill., and inquired of the teacher if any one of the pupils

could direct him to the grave of Thomas Lincoln in the old Shiloh cemetery, a short distance from the schoolhouse. Father held up his hand and said he knew right where the grave was.

"Climbing into the sulky, bare-footed and wearing trousers that his mother spun for him, father sat almost on Mr. Lincoln's lap and they drove to the cemetery. The grave was pointed out. In those days they did not have many monuments. I don't know who put it there at the Lincoln grave, but for several years the marker was a petrified log at the head of the grave. I have a piece of this wood.

"In Shiloh burying-ground is our family plot, and father's grave is a few feet from the Thomas Lincoln grave. A large and impressive memorial was erected there for Thomas Lincoln and today it is a shrine for visitors from all over the country."

